

FAIRY TAIL

8



Creator of *Rave Master*

Hiro Mashima

FAIRY TAIL



HIRO MASHIMA

8

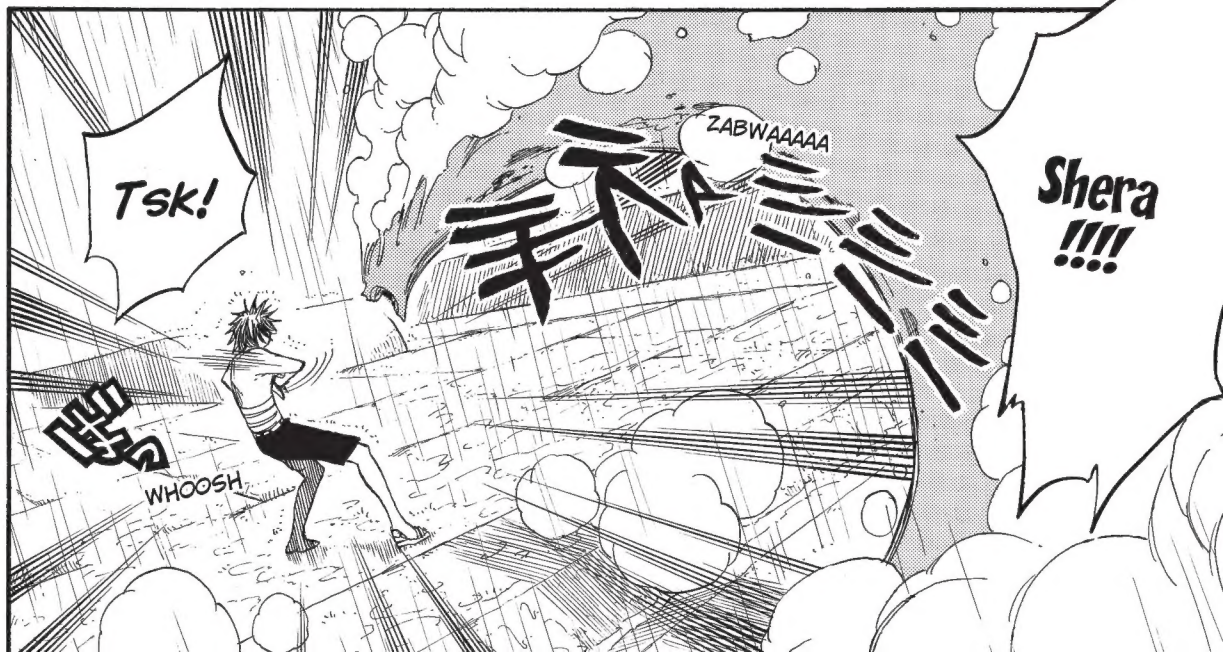


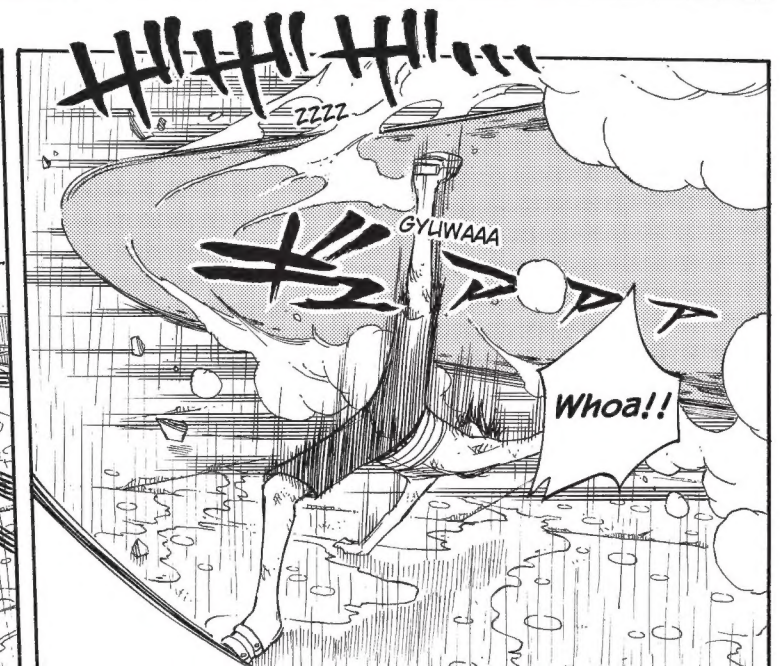
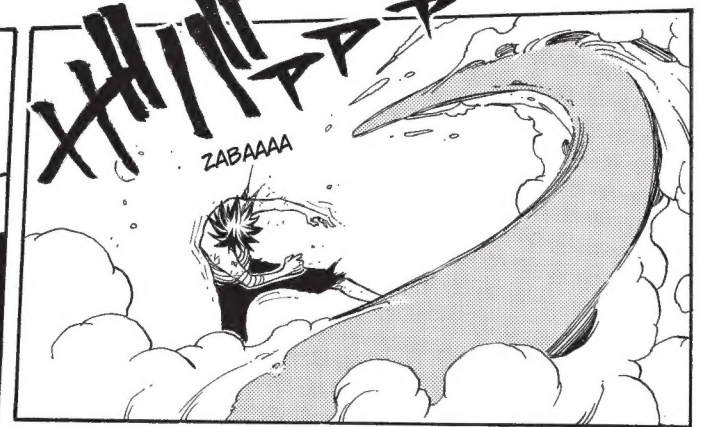
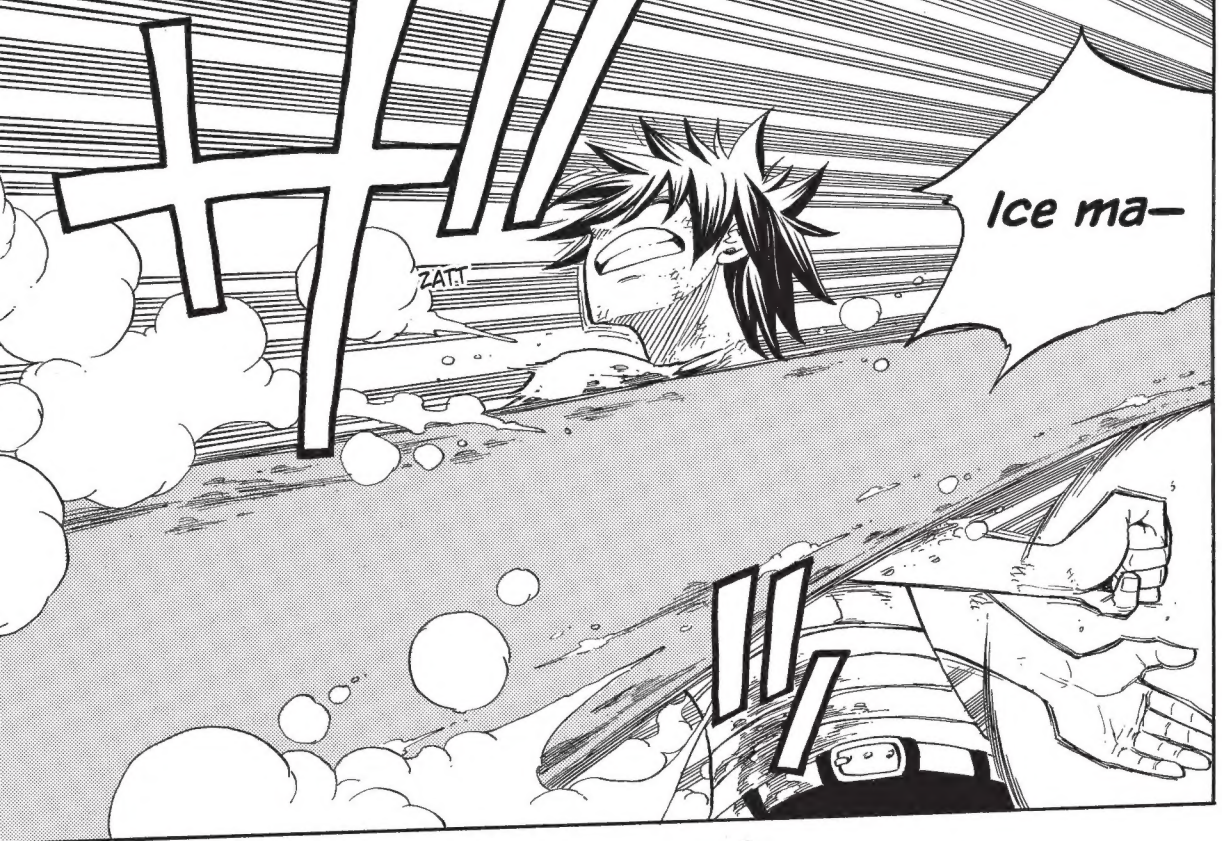
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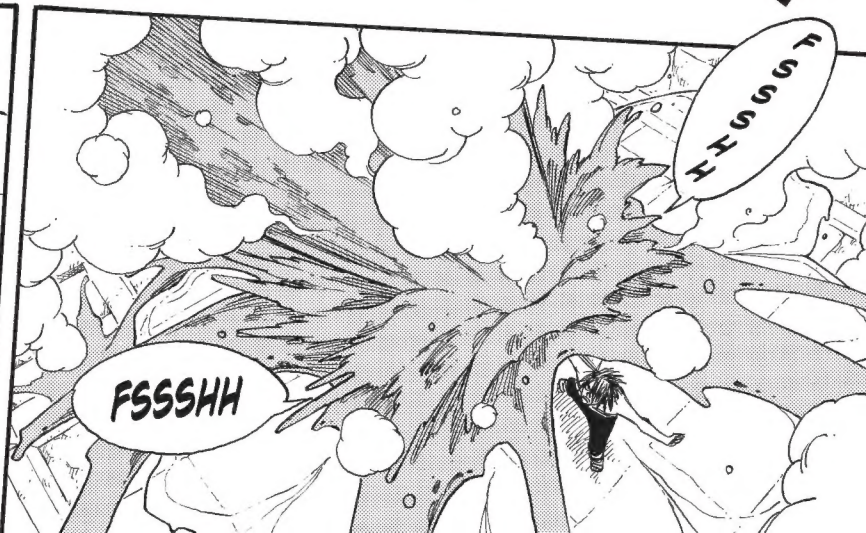
FAIRY TAIL

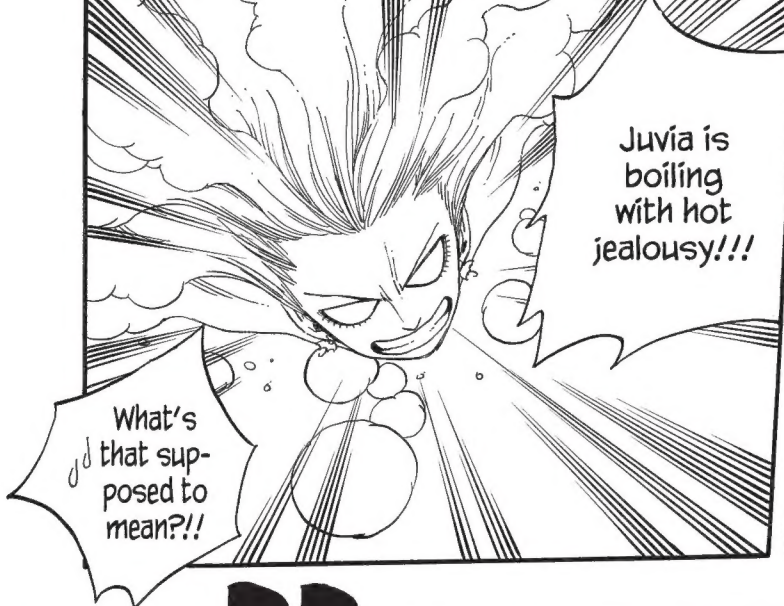


Chapter 57: Fair-Weather Charm







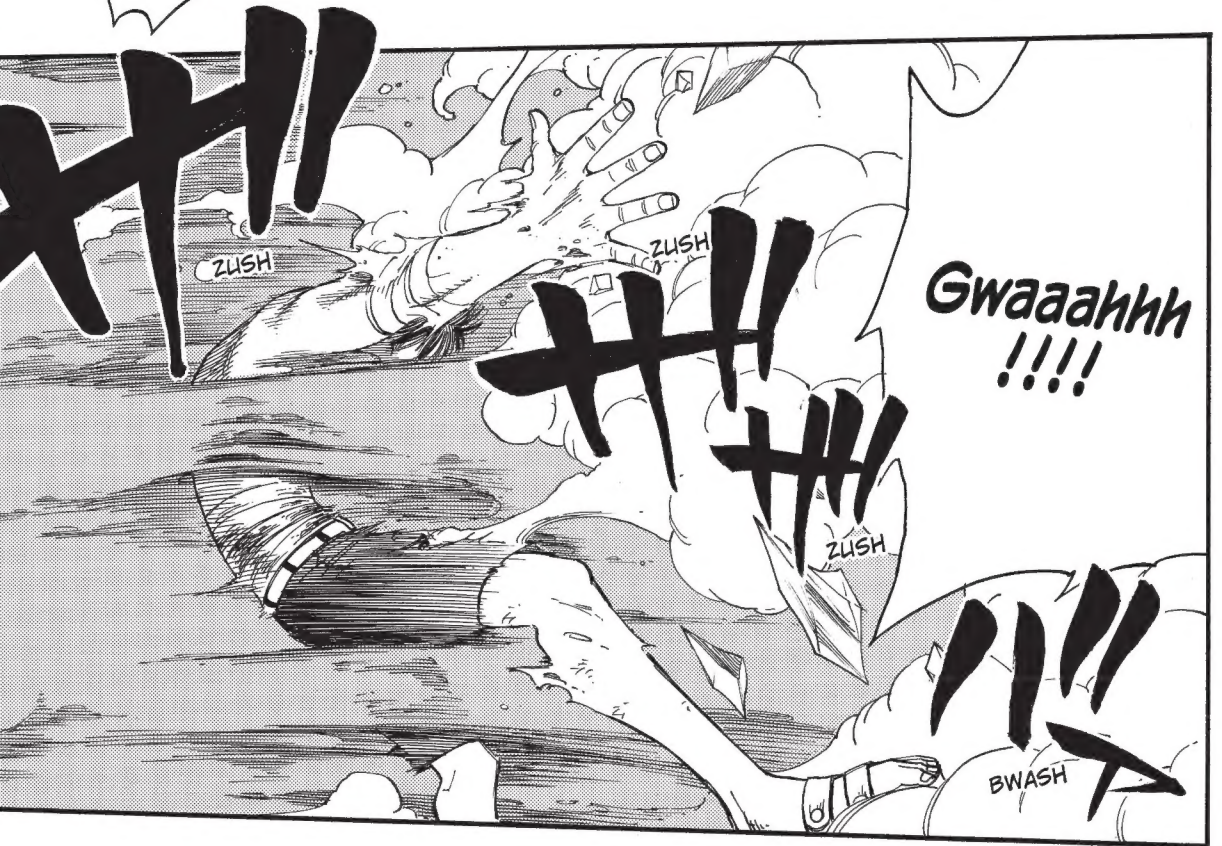


Juvia is boiling with hot jealousy!!!

What's that supposed to mean?!!



DRIPP



ZUSH

ZUSH

ZUSH

Gwaaahhh
!!!!

BWASH



SHHHHUSH

SHHHHUSH

SHHHHUSH

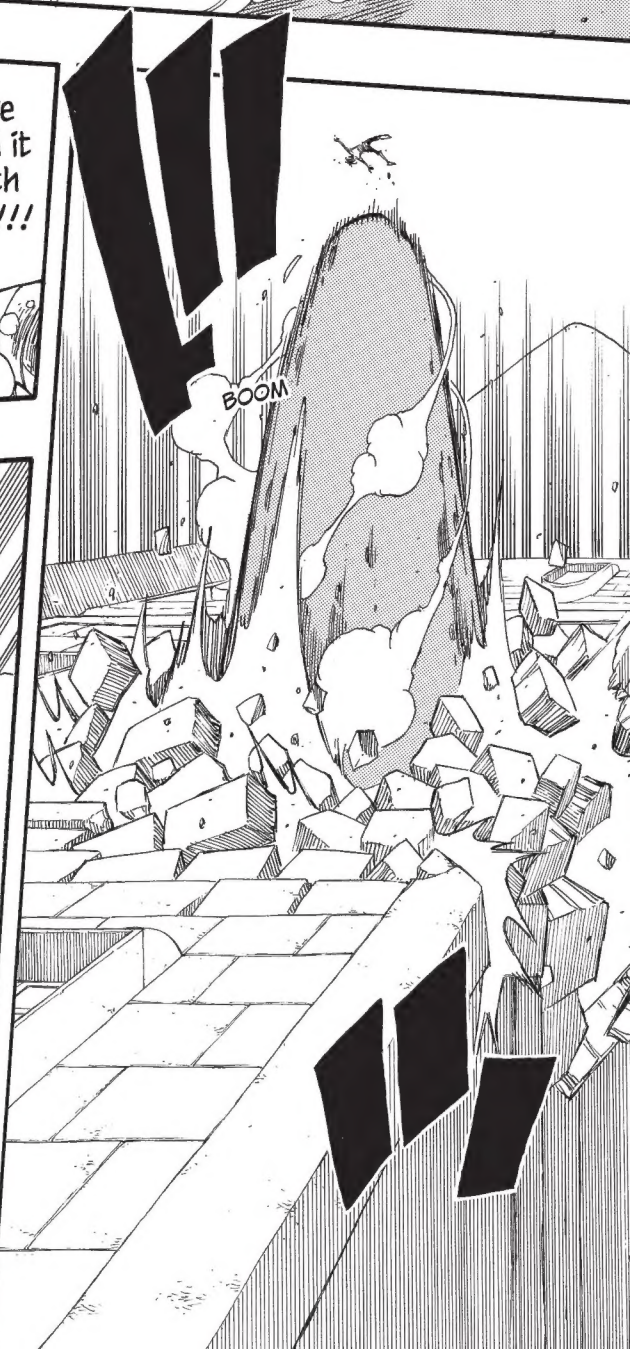
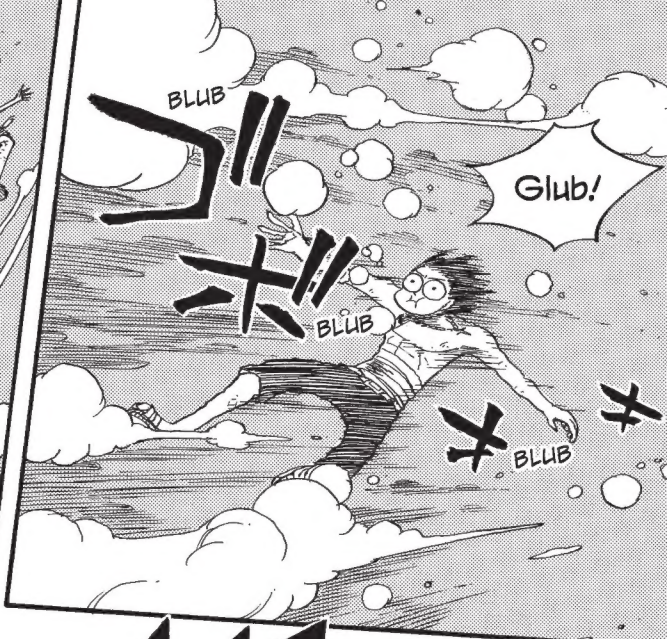
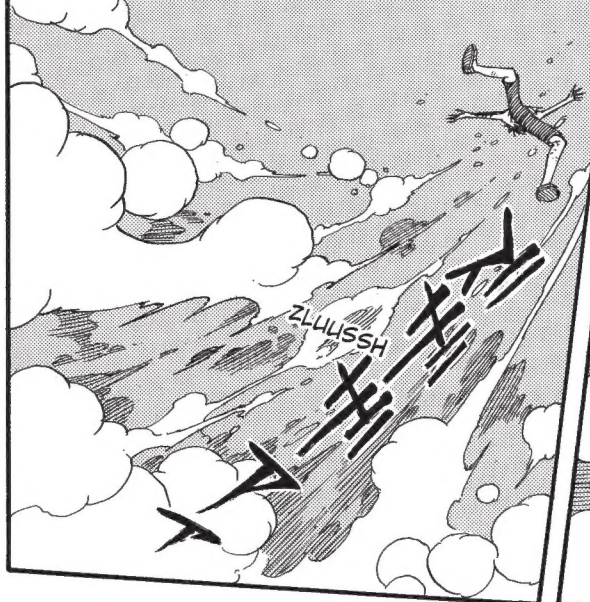
SHHHHUSH

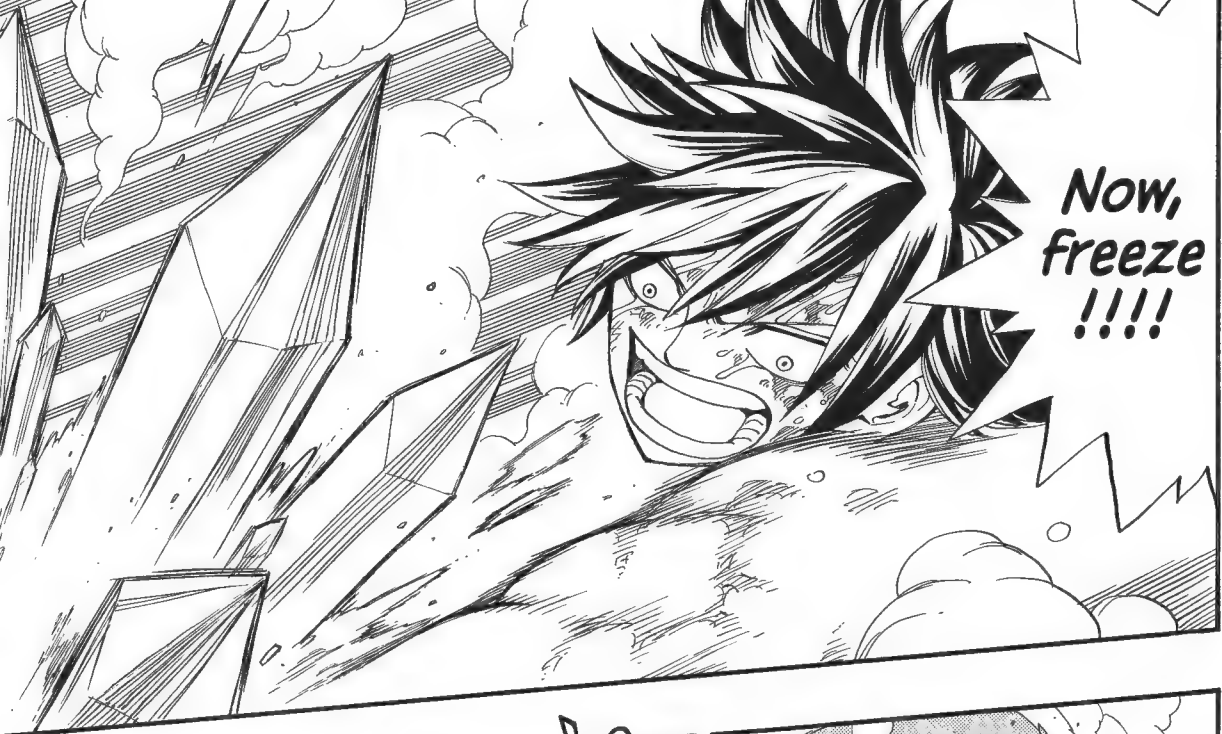
Kh!!

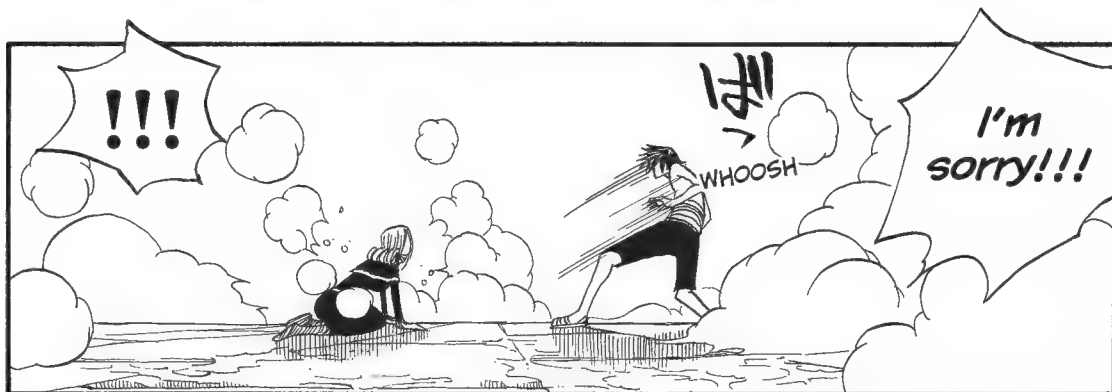
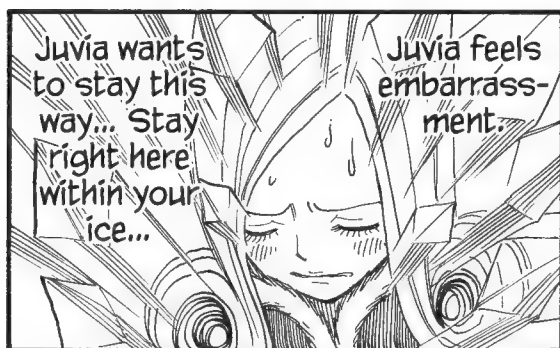


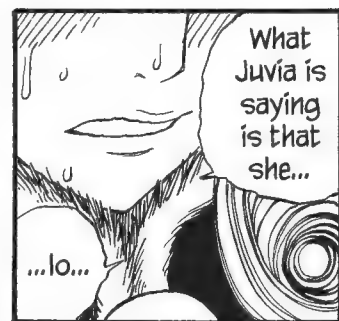
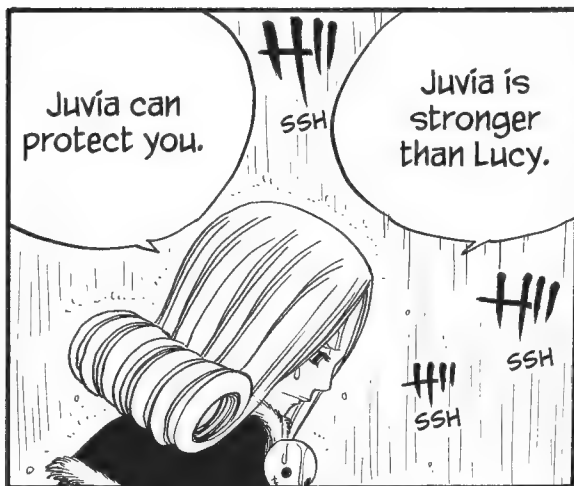
It's so hot...

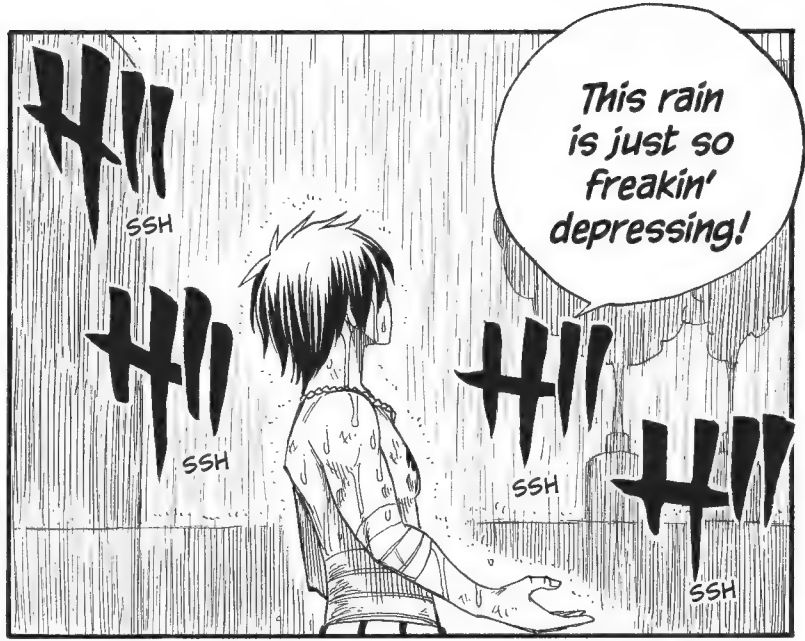
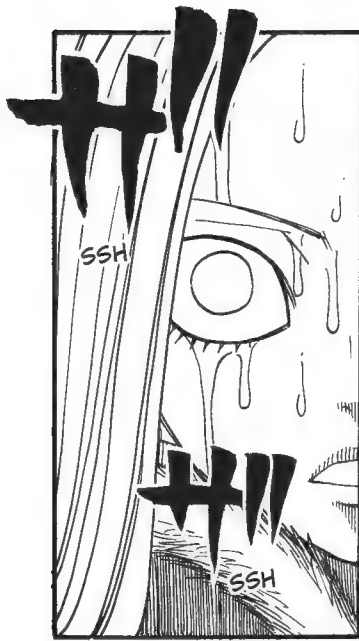
It's burning my skin...

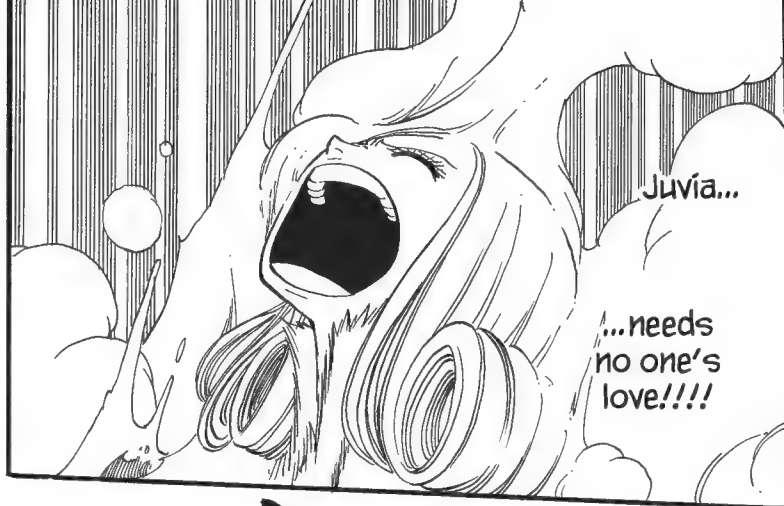










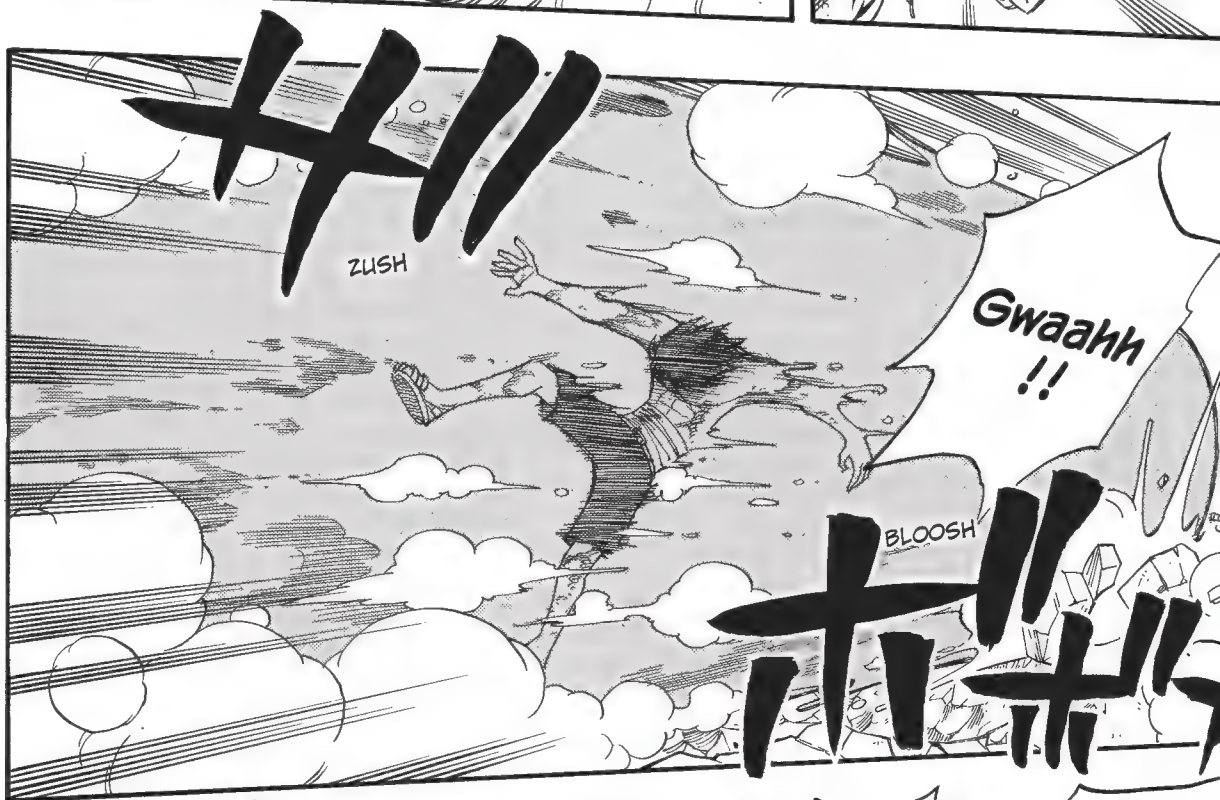


Juvia...

...needs
no one's
love!!!!



If you want
to get into
it, then
come on!!



ZUSH

Gwaahh
!!

BLOOSH



Juvia
needs
none of
it!!!!

Uwaahh
!!



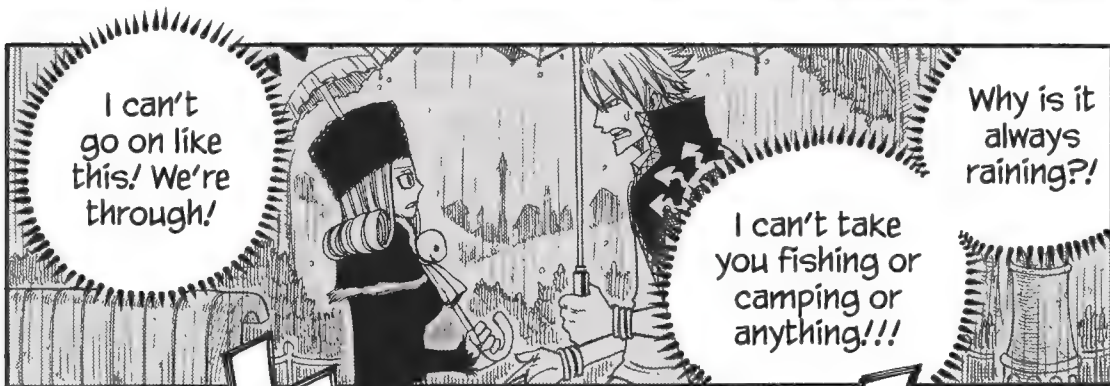
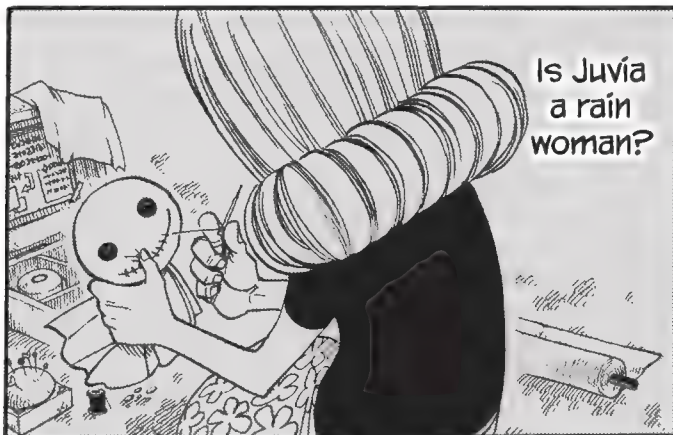
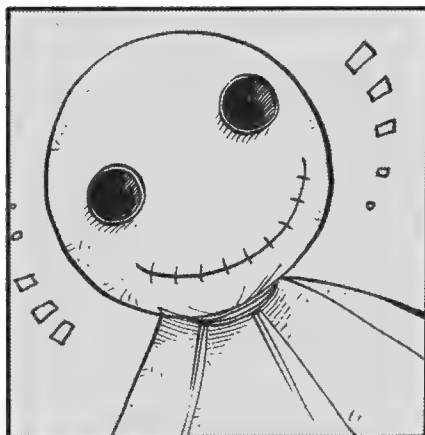
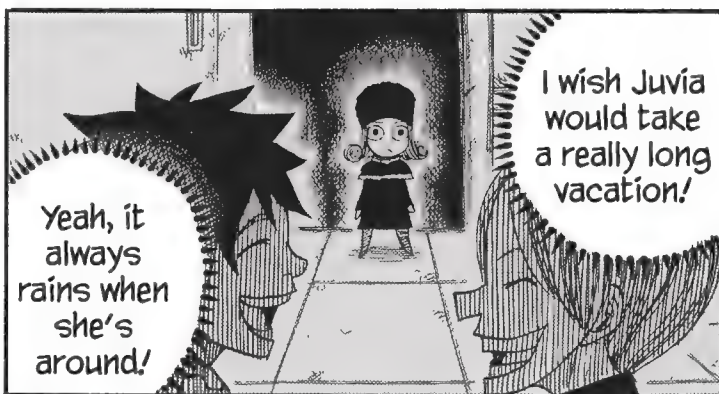
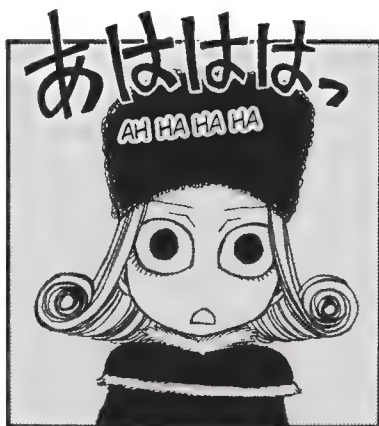
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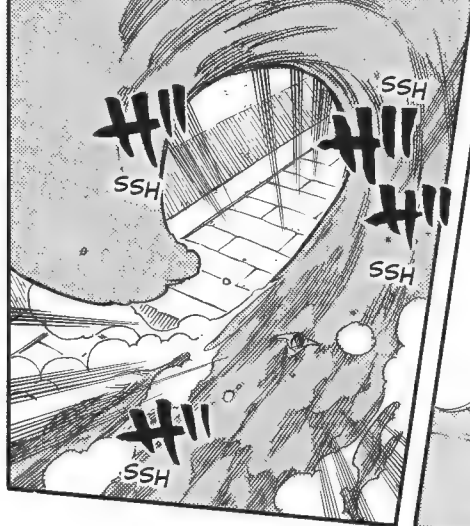
Is this
stuff even
hotter than
before?!!



I'll freeze
it again...

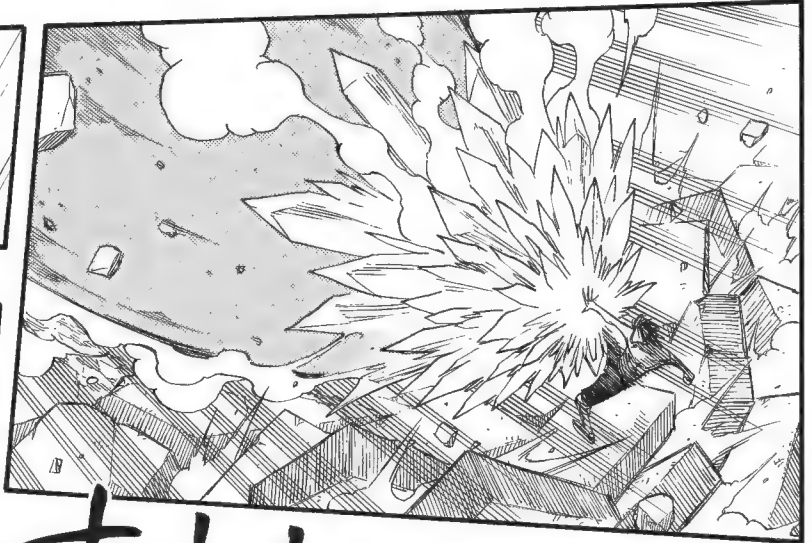
WHOOSH!







Hyaaa-
aahhh
!!!!



He's even
turning
the rain
to ice...?

What
amazing
magical
power!!!



BA CHIKK

**Ice
Geyser
!!!!**



**Aaaa-
aaahh
!!!!**

KRAKL

KRAKL

KRAKL

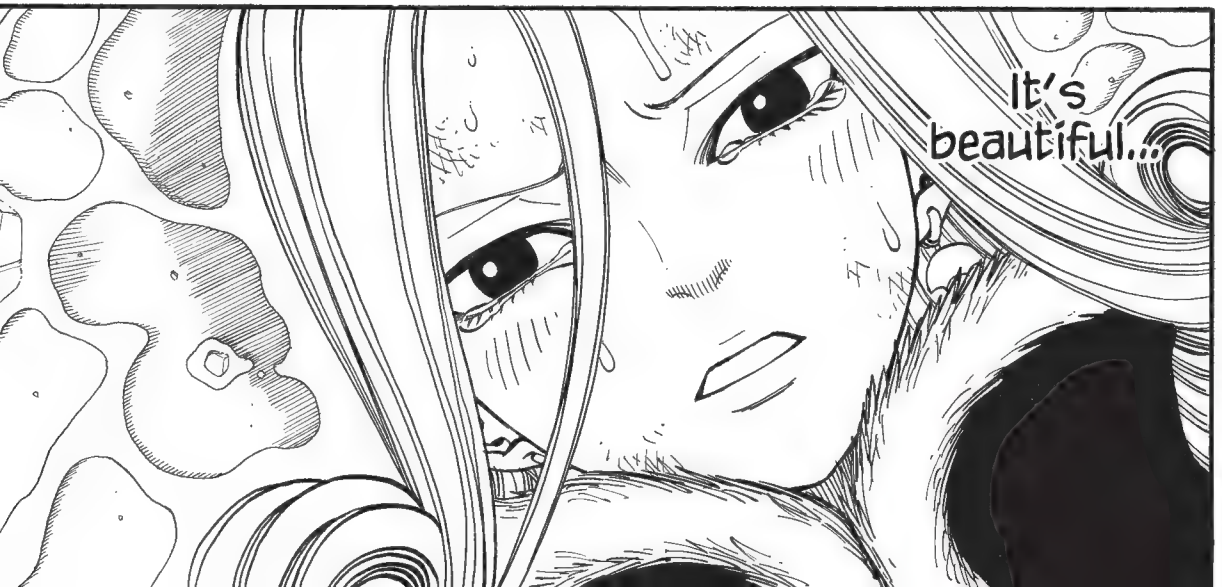
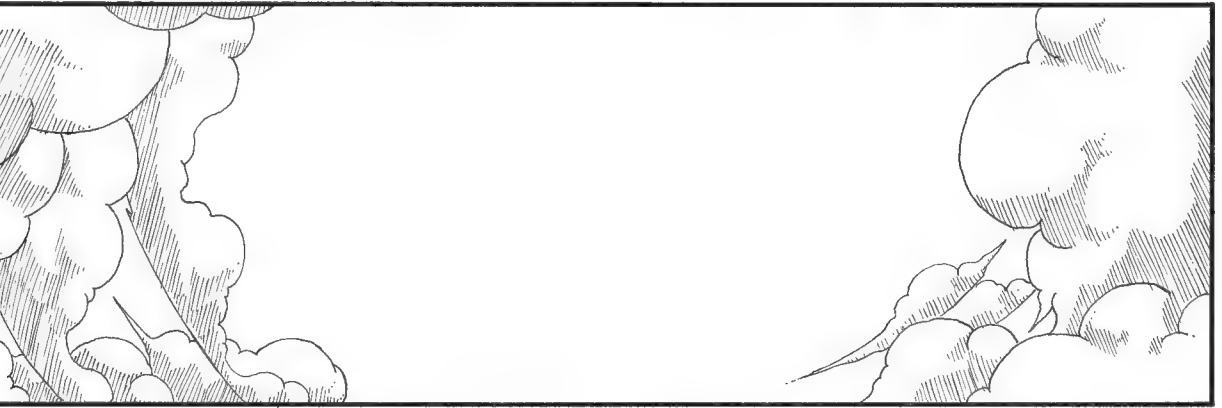
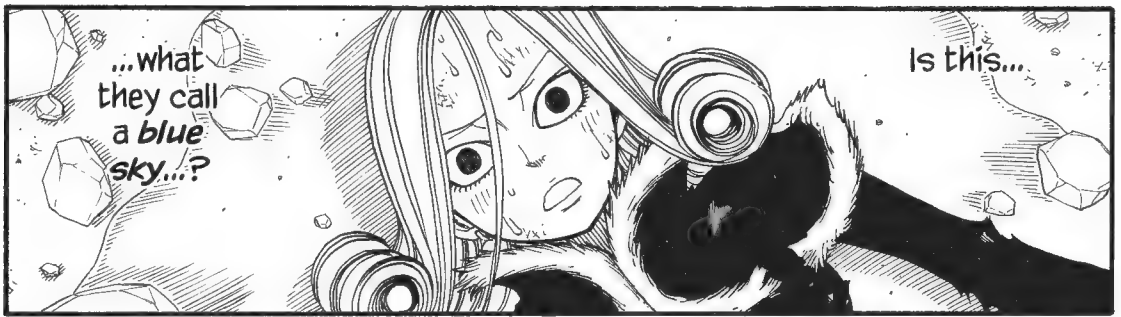
KRAKL

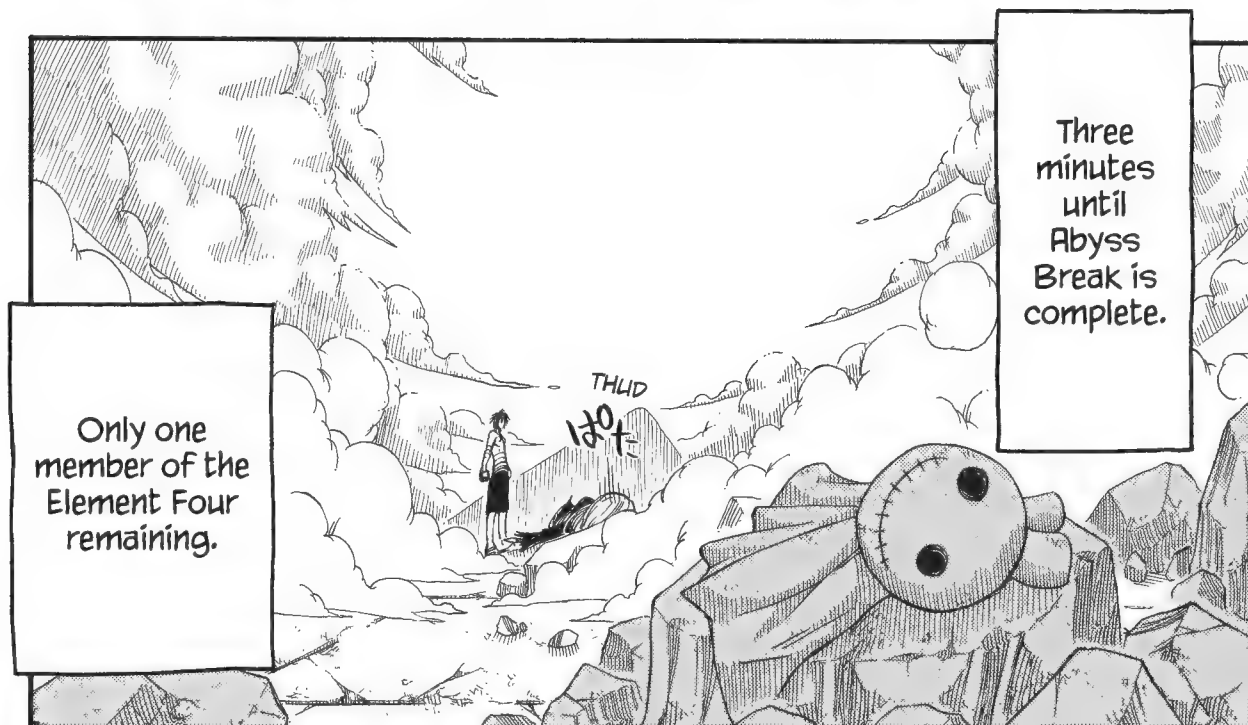
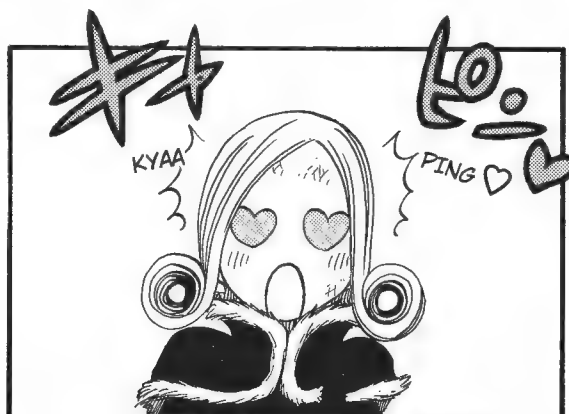




The
rain...

...has
stopped...

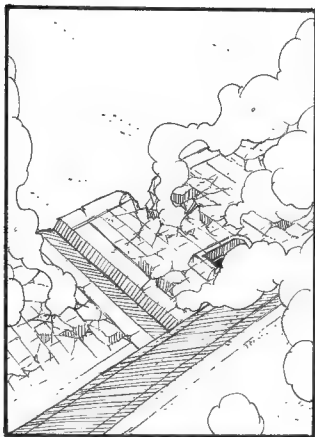
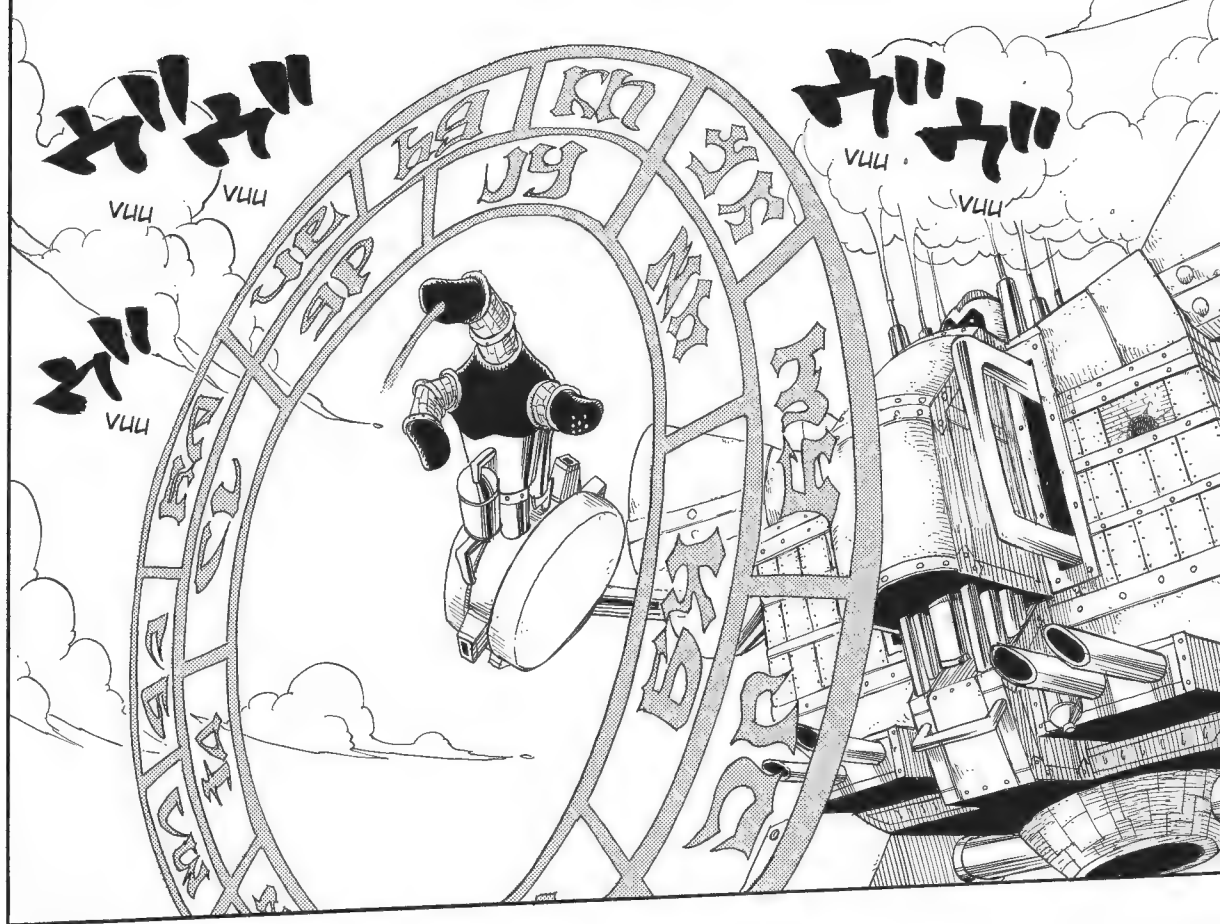


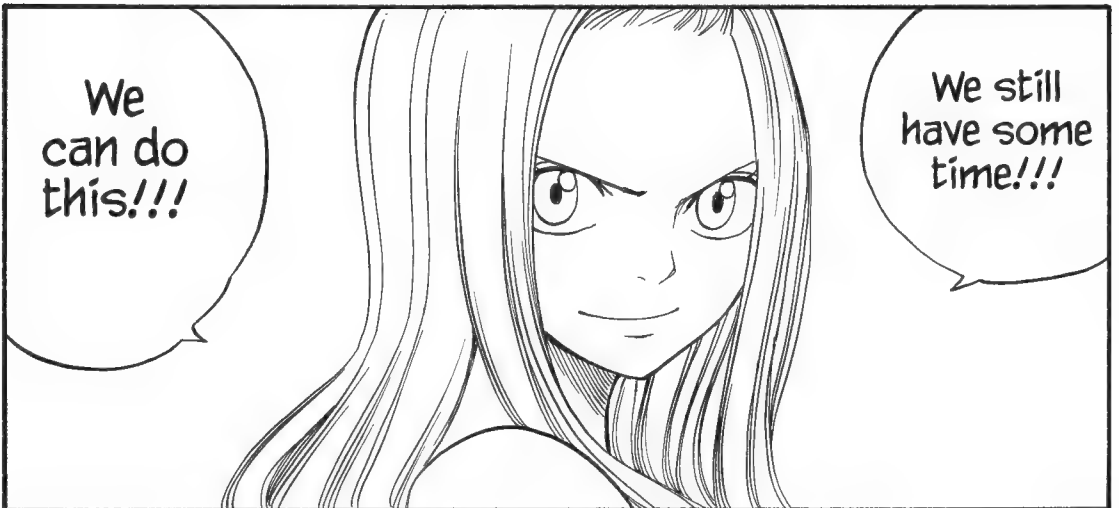
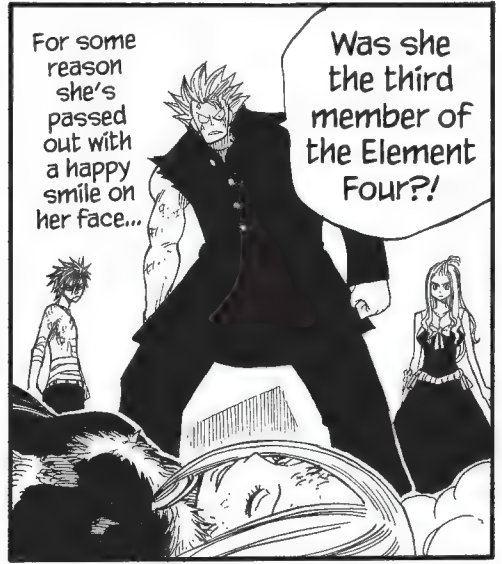
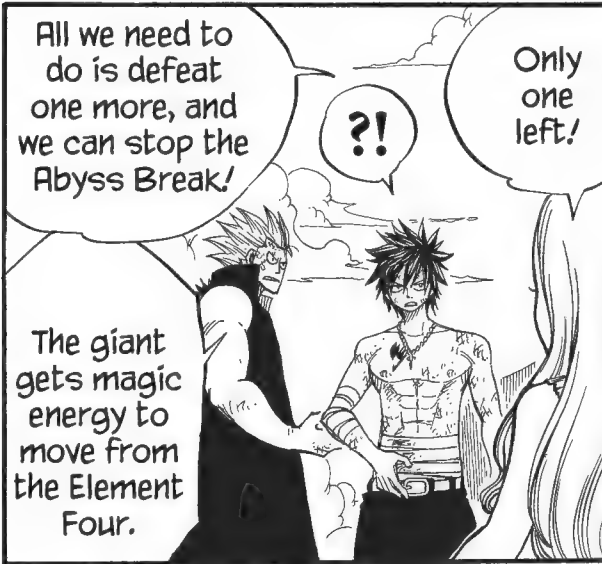
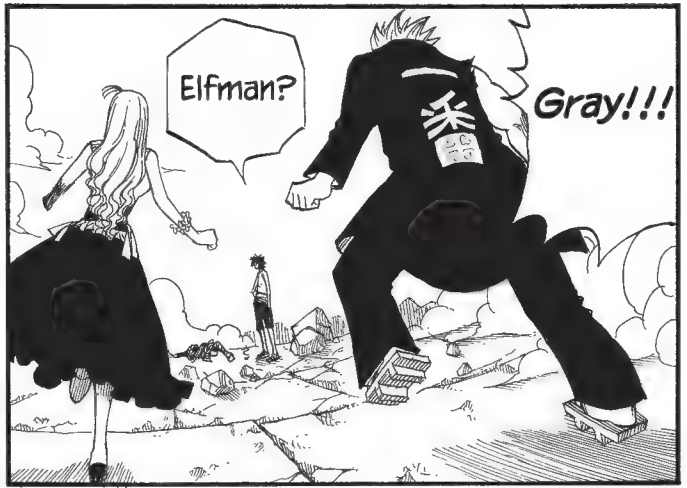


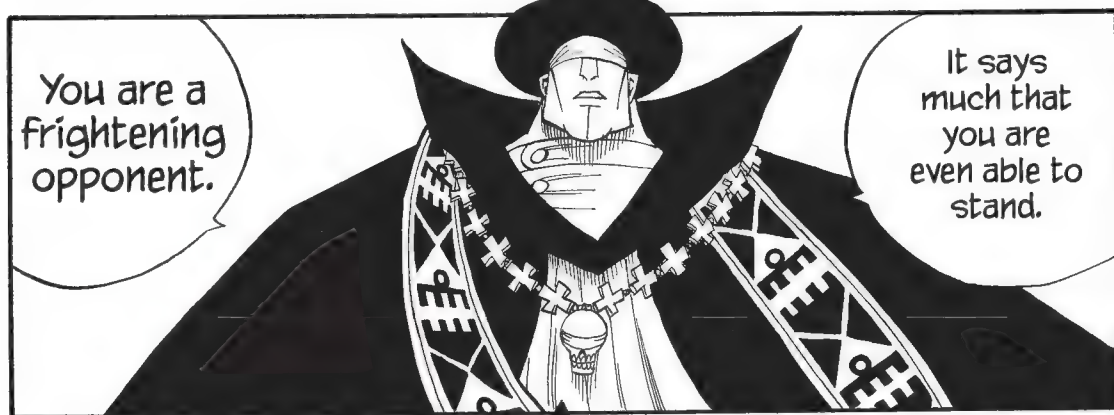
FAIRY TAIL



**Chapter 58: There Is
Always Someone Better**

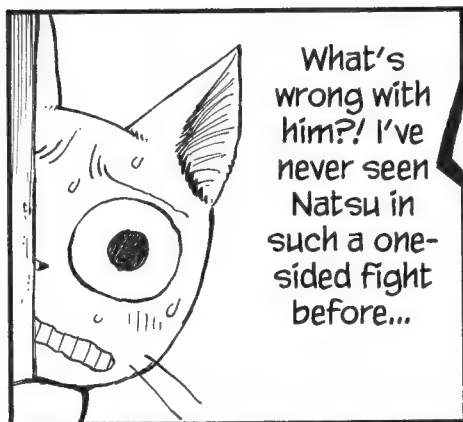






You are a
frightening
opponent.

It says
much that
you are
even able to
stand.



What's
wrong with
him?! I've
never seen
Natsu in
such a one-
sided fight
before...



Dammit!!

DWO

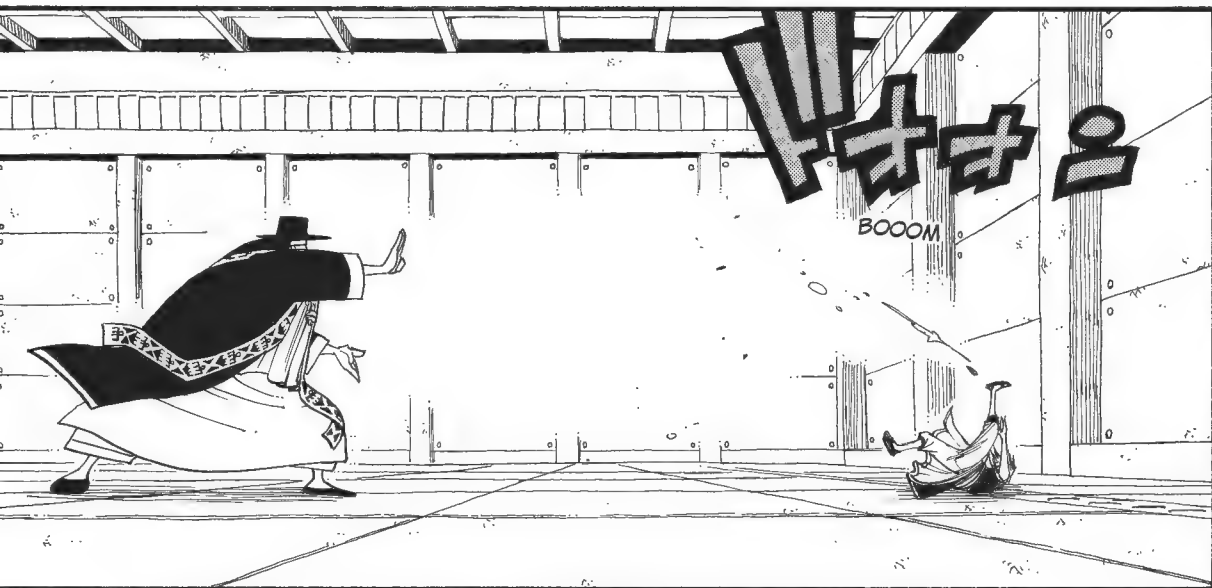


Gah!



But there is nothing that can stand against my kûiki* magic!

*Open Air

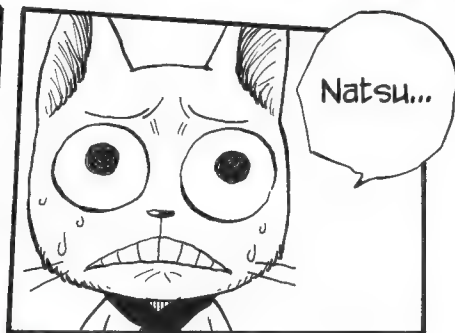


Hmm...



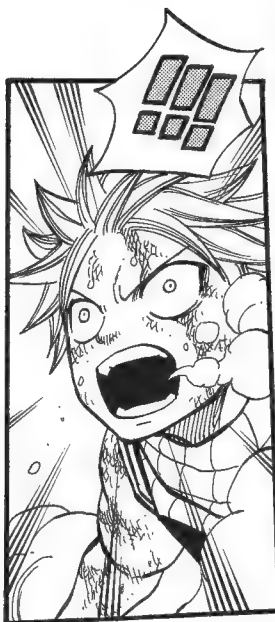
How can anyone beat it?!

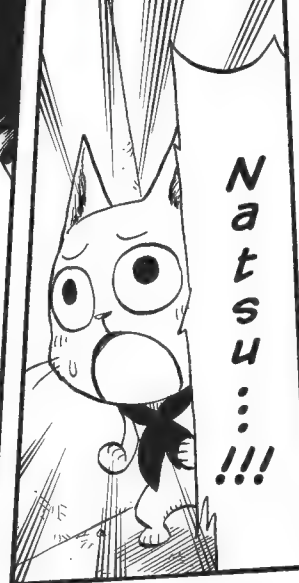
You can't even see his magic!



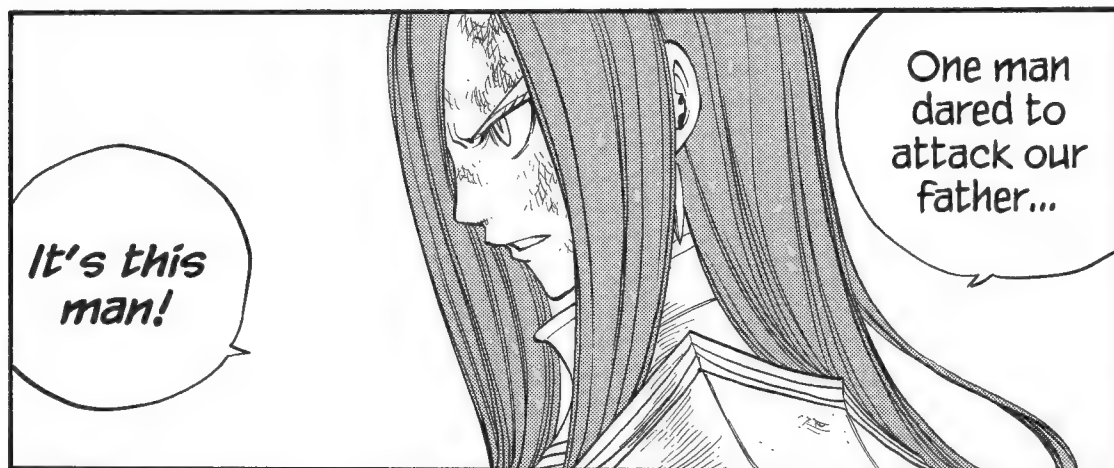
*Open Air...
Eradicate!!

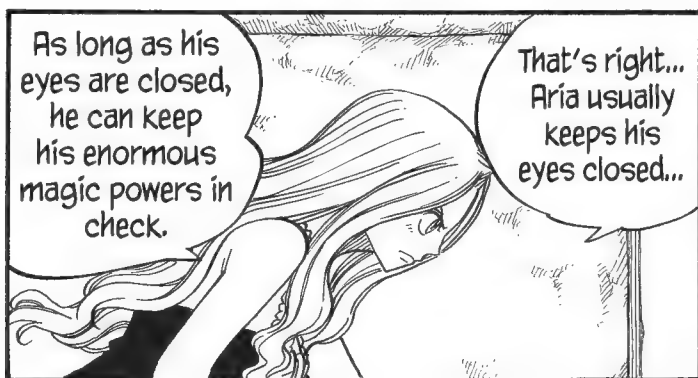


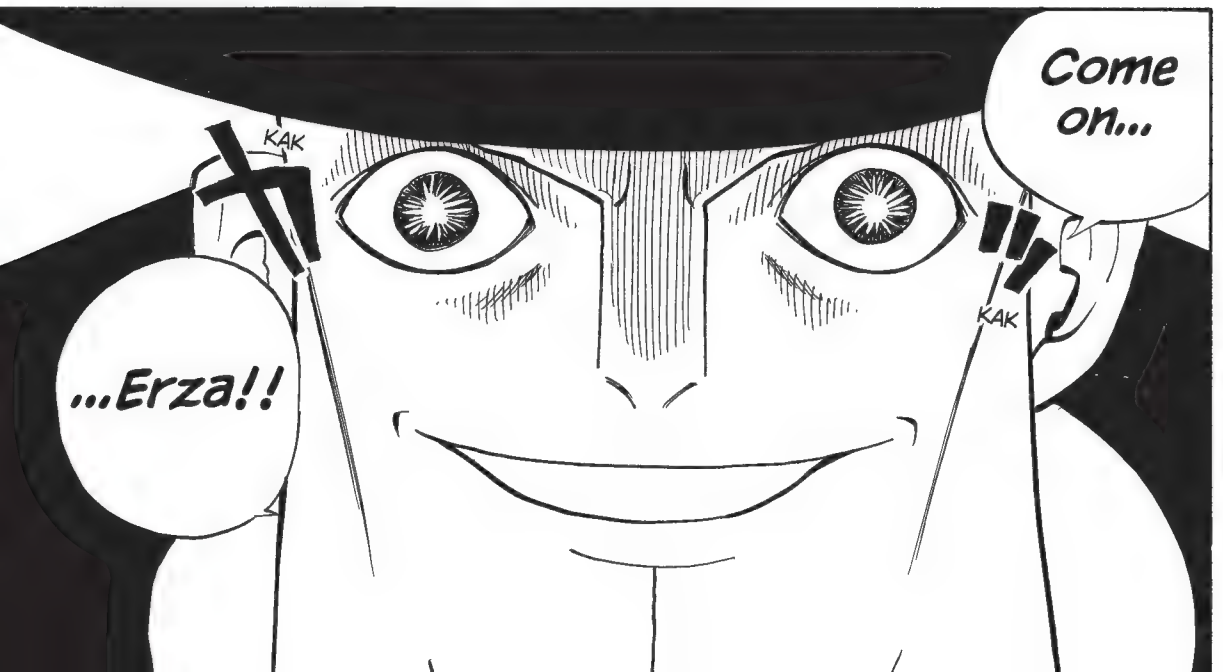
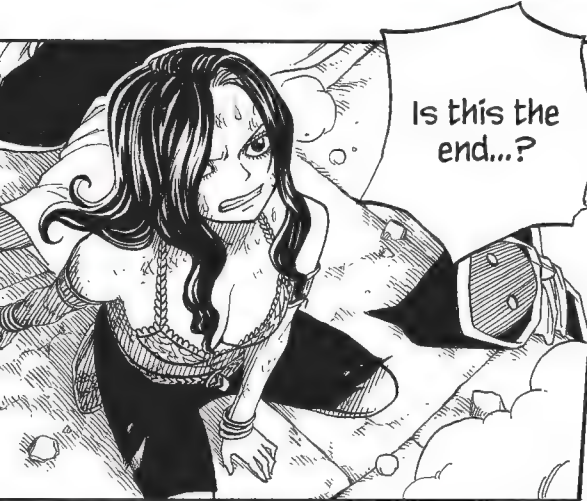
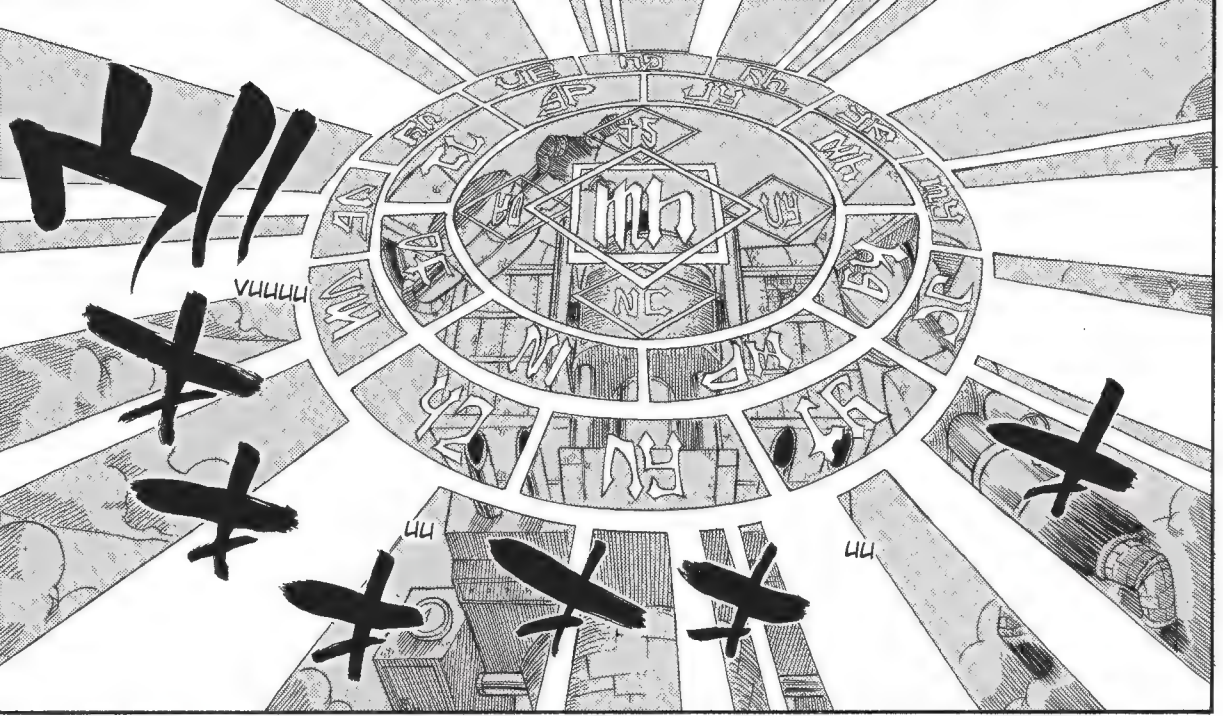










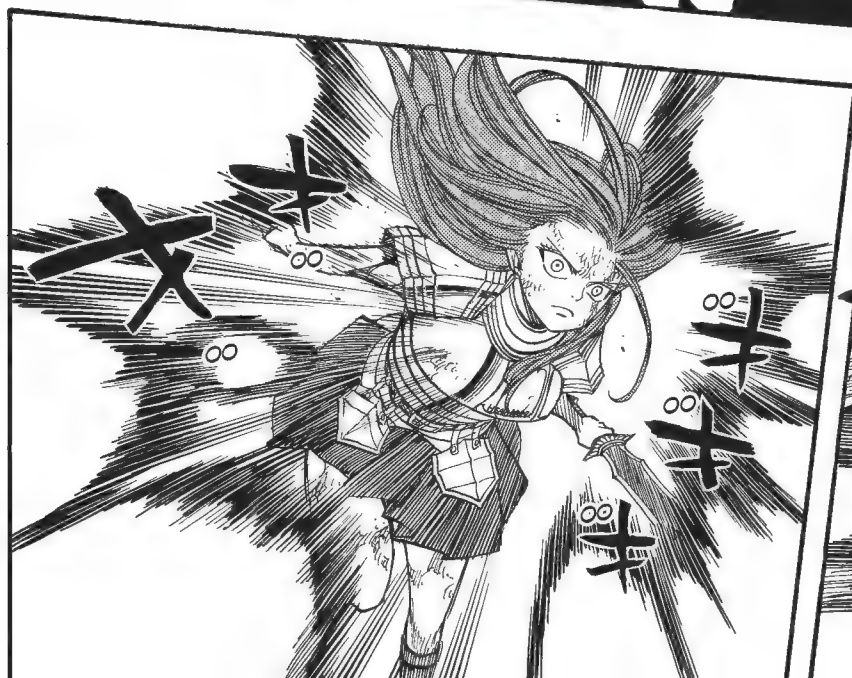
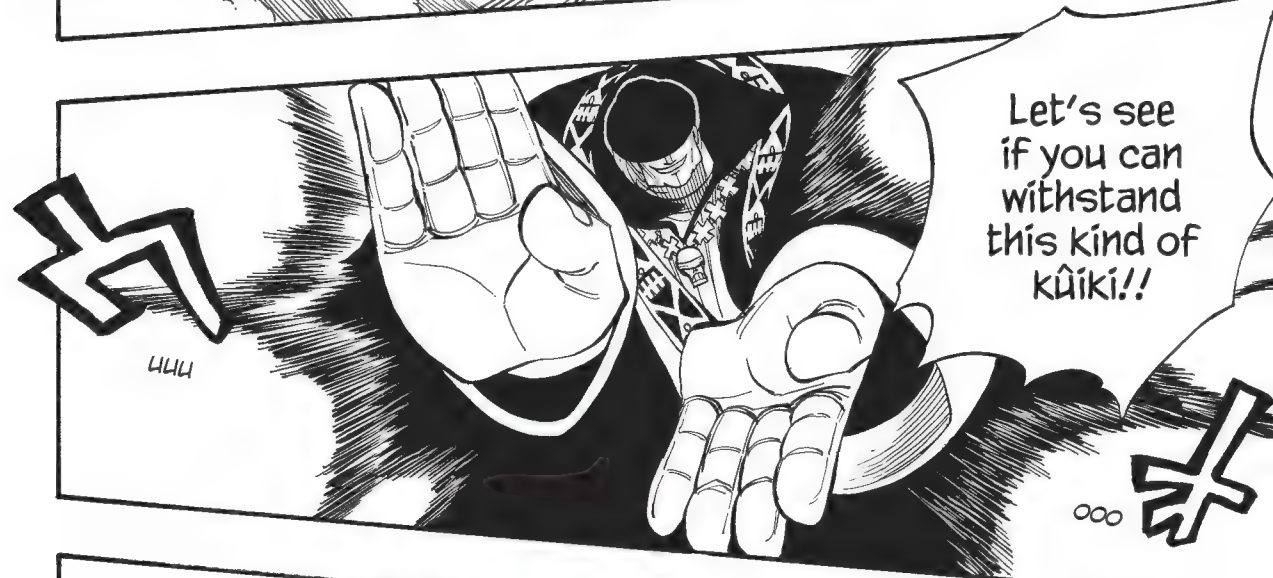


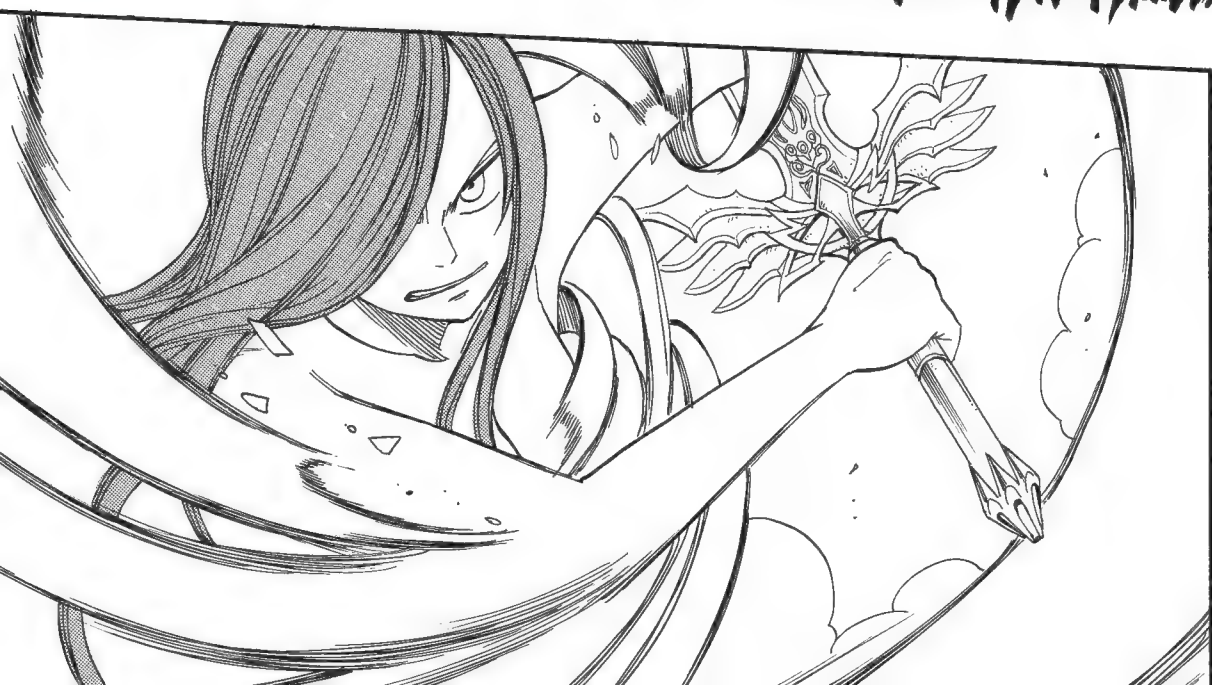
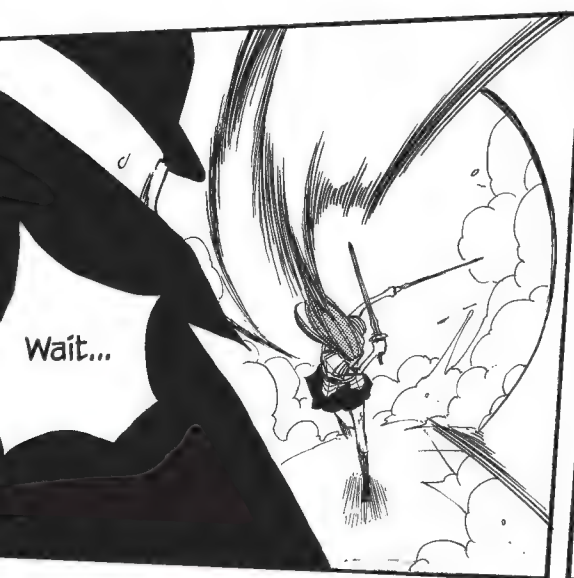
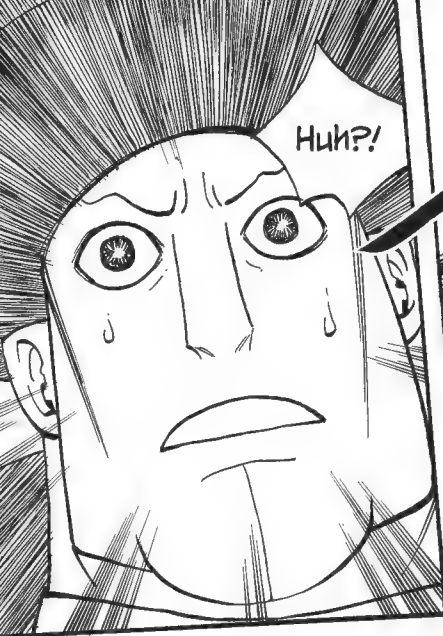


Now
the fun
begins!

*What makes
it so easy for
you cretins to
steal people's
lives?!!!!*





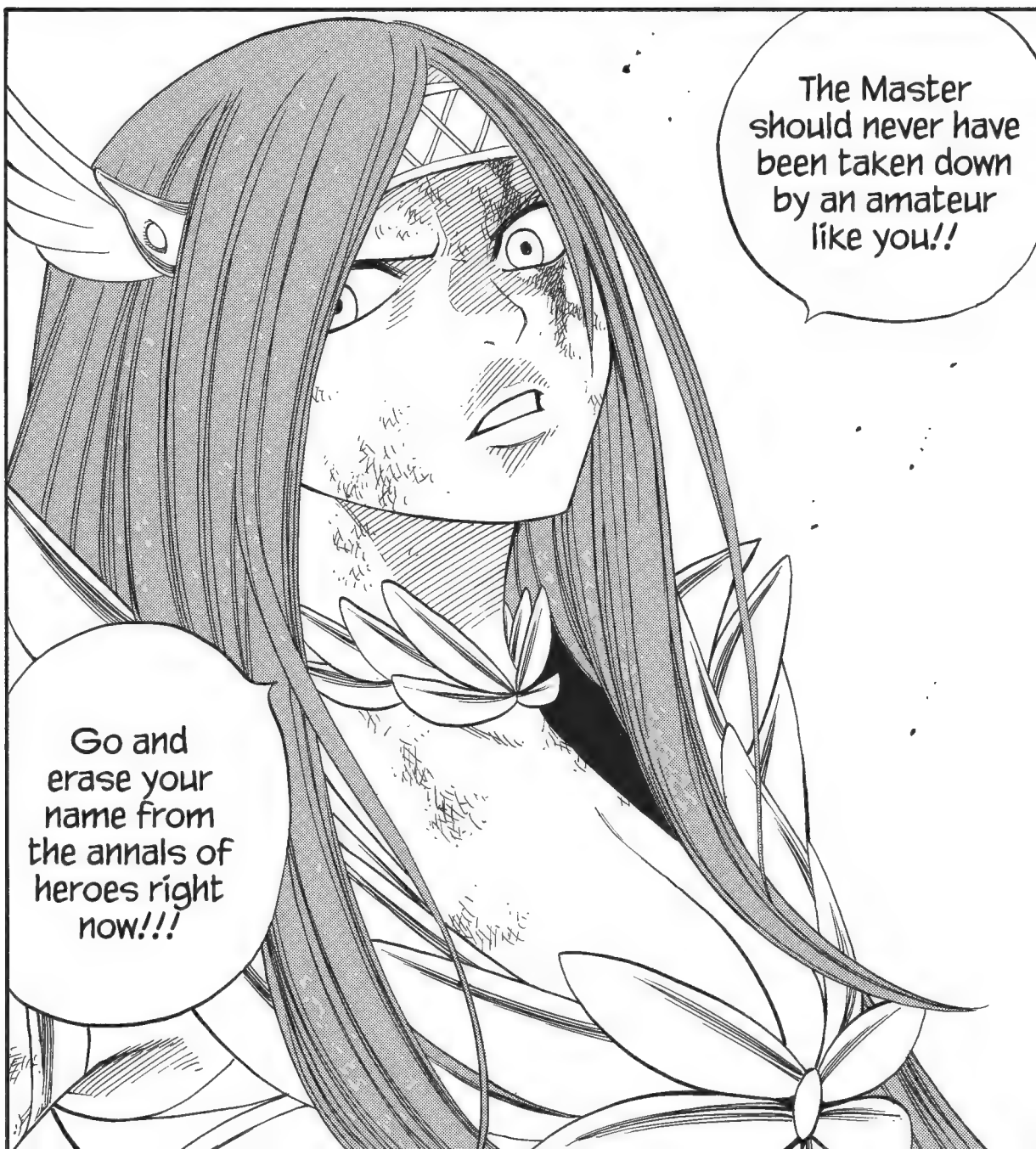




**Tenrin
Blumenbrat
!!!!***

Gawhaah!!

***Wheel of Heaven:
Scattered Petals!!!!**



Go and
erase your
name from
the annals of
heroes right
now!!!

The Master
should never have
been taken down
by an amateur
like you!!

FAIRY TAIL



Remarks

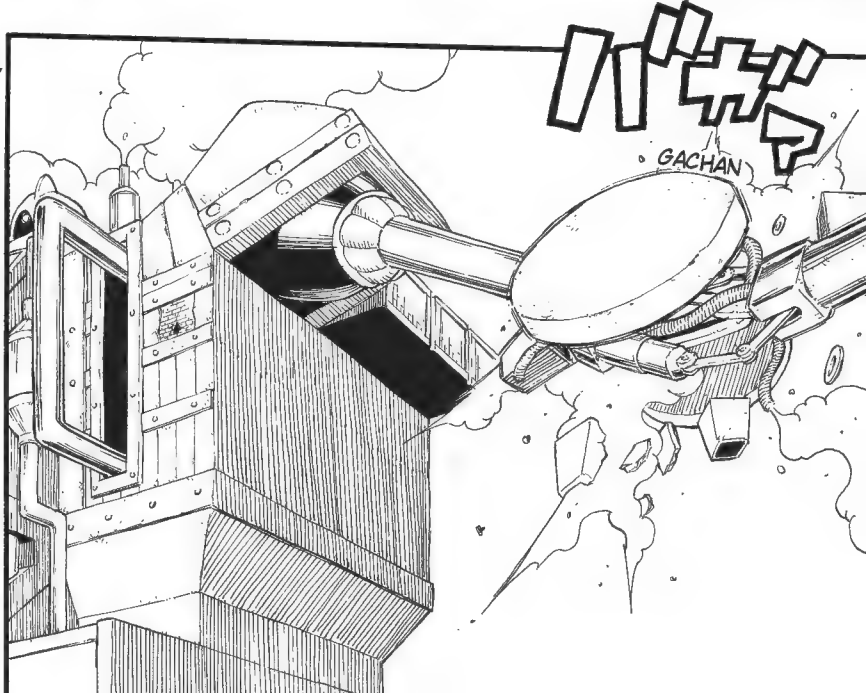
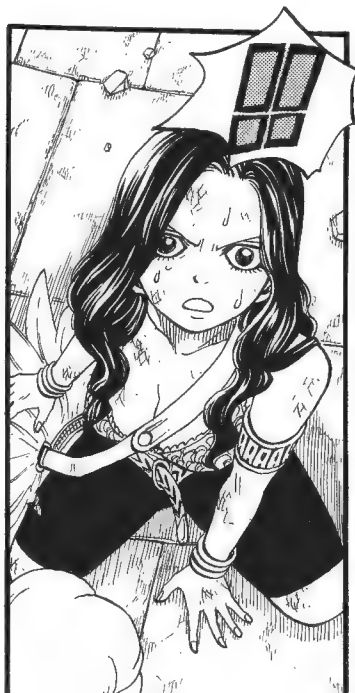
A wizard who specializes in sand magic. He loves to talk to people, and he usually can be found anywhere where people like to gather. Actually, he can't hold his liquor very well, but he tends to go with the flow and always drinks too much. Every time, he regrets it the next day. As a reaction to his generally friendless childhood, he spends as much time as he can in conversation, but nobody knows of his past.

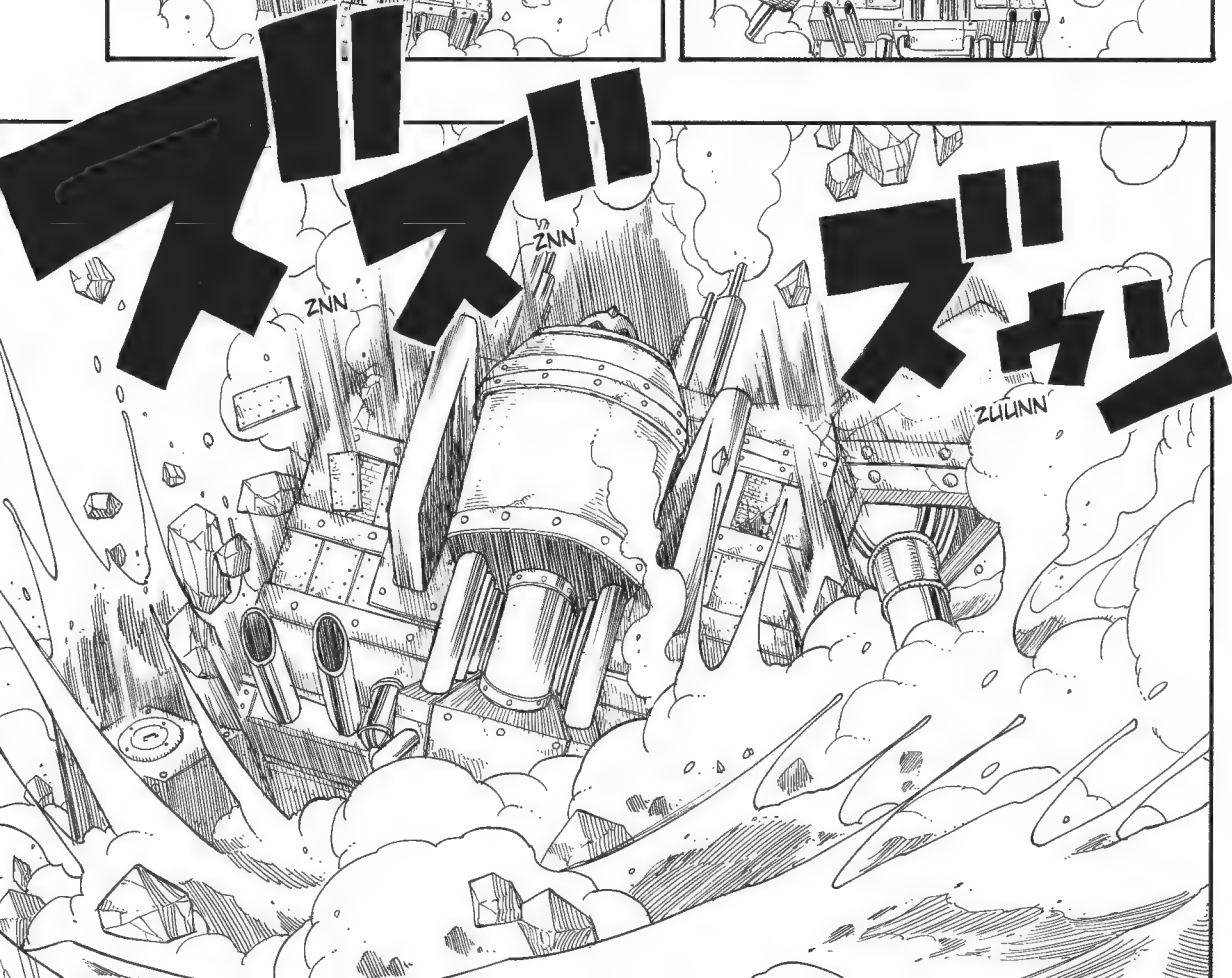
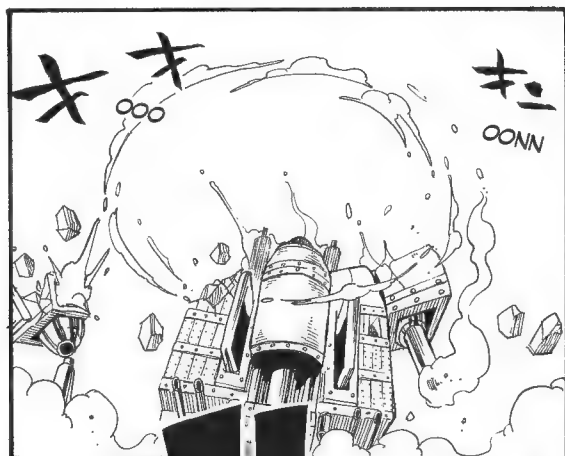
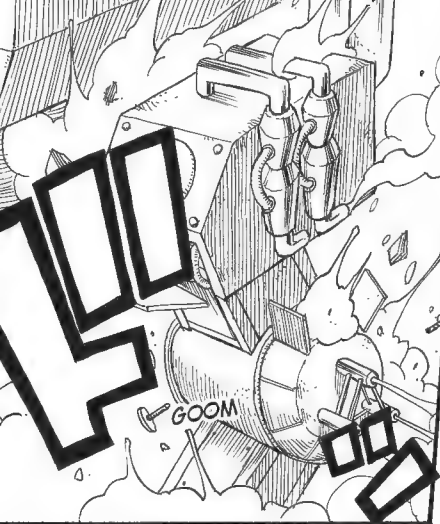


This isn't
magic
that'll miss
you if you
lay on the
ground!!!

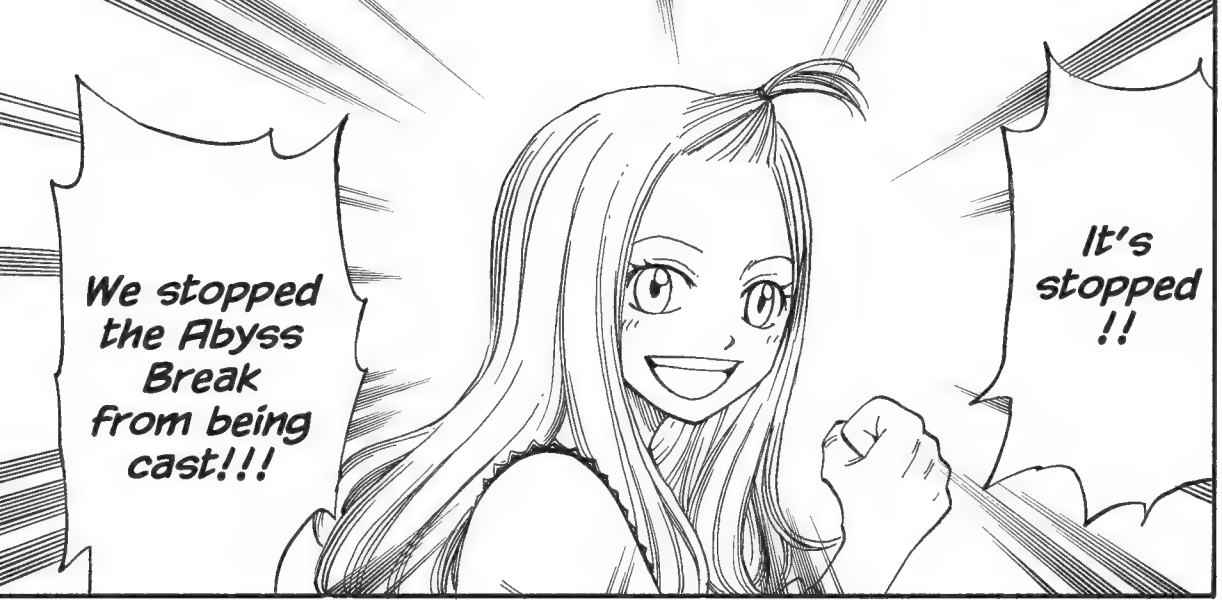



Everybody,
get down!!!



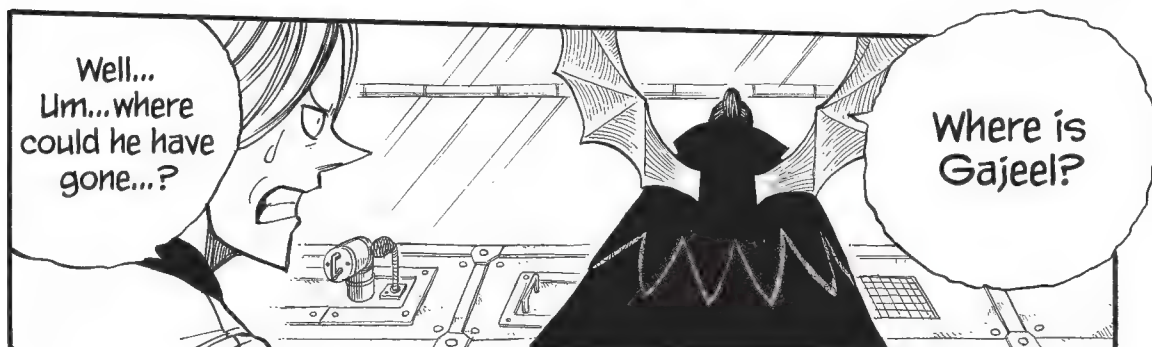
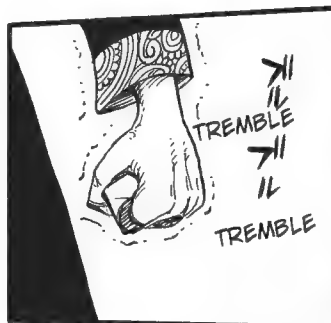








*Are you
trying to tell
me that the
Element Four
were wiped
out by that
Fairy Tail
trash?!!!*



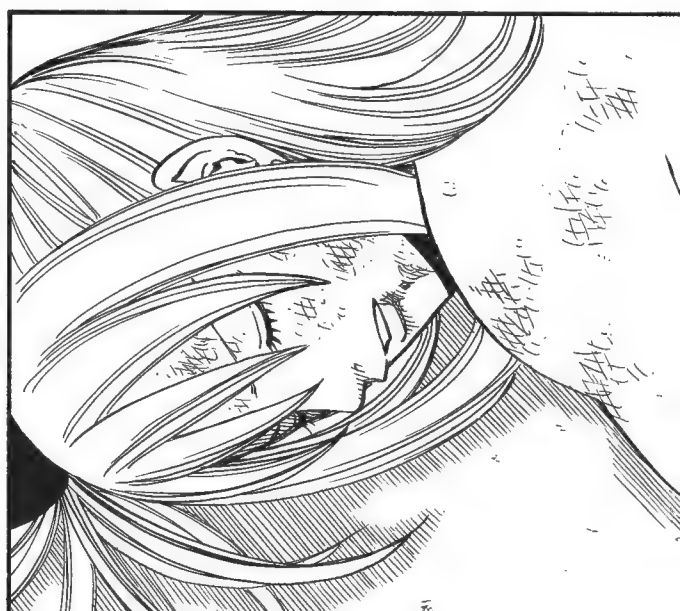
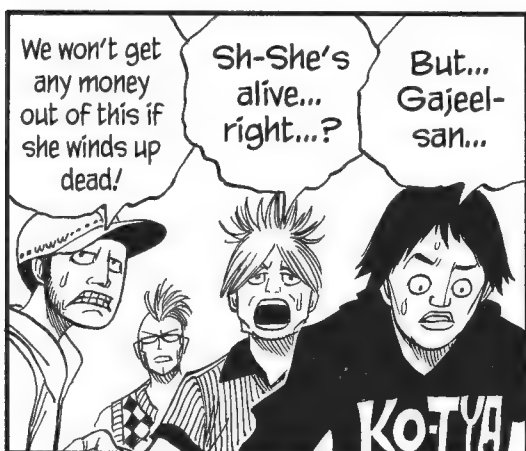
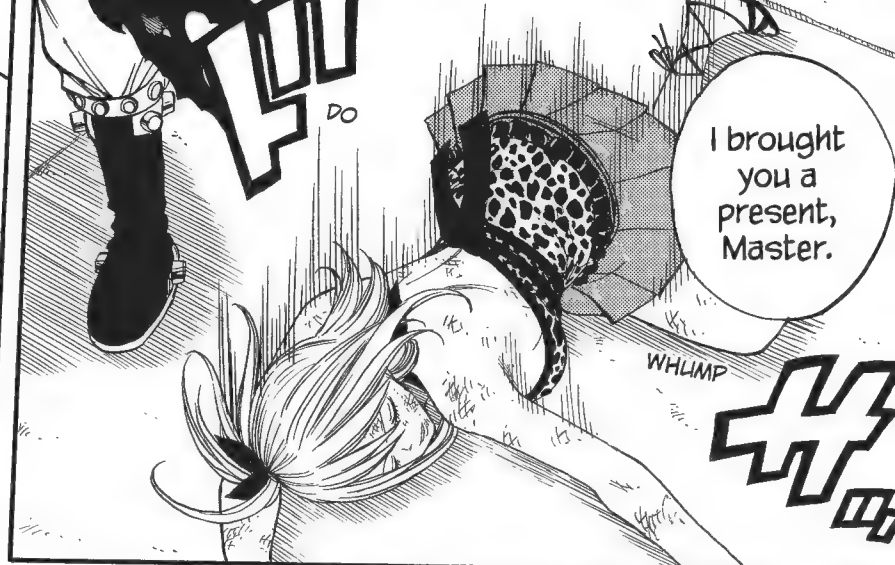
So the Element
Four were taken out?
If they were defeated
by that garbage, then
they must have been
garbage themselves!

Gee
hee
hee!

I'm right
here,
Master!

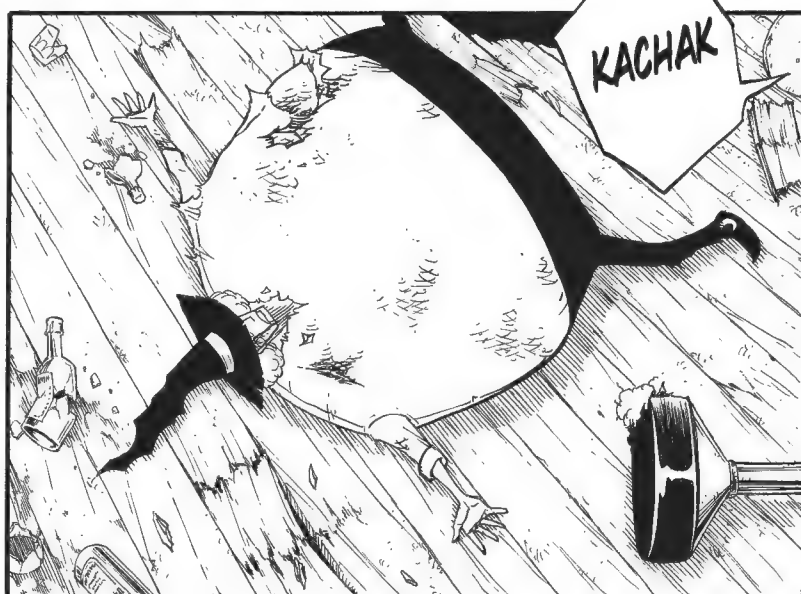
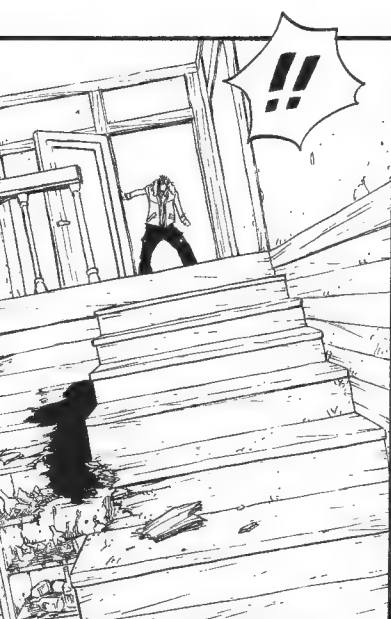
If it was going to
turn out this way
anyway, then you
should have put
me on the front
lines from the
start.

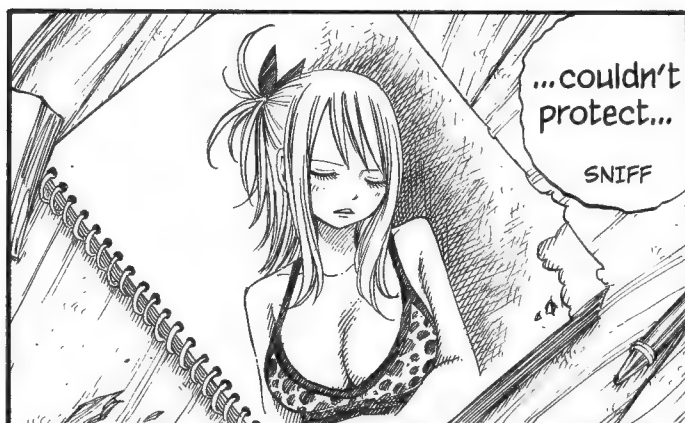
BOOM

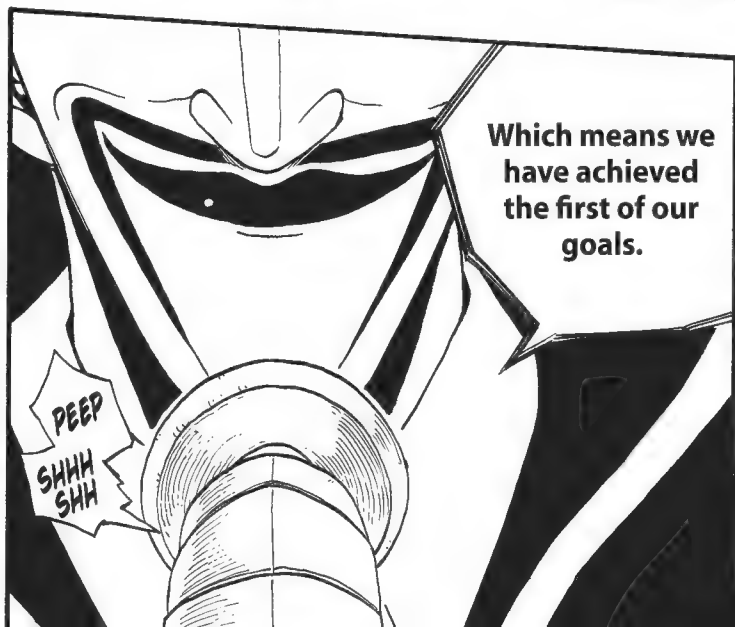
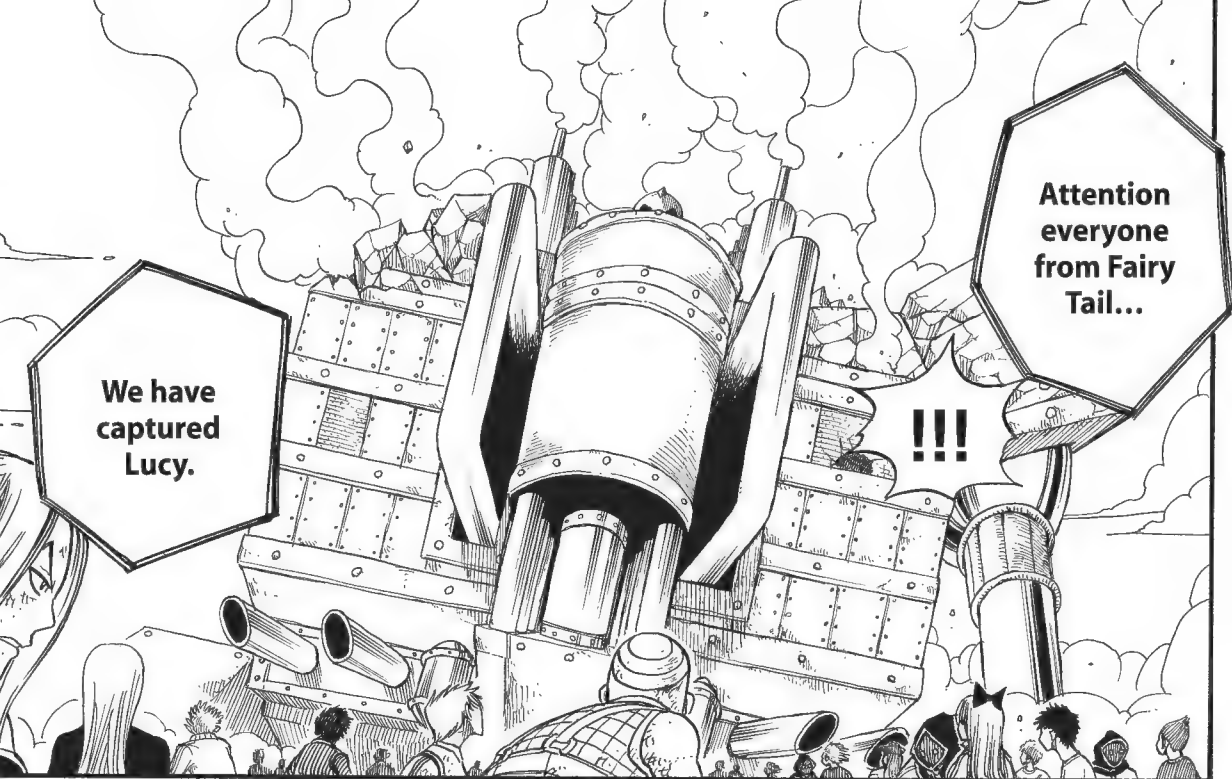


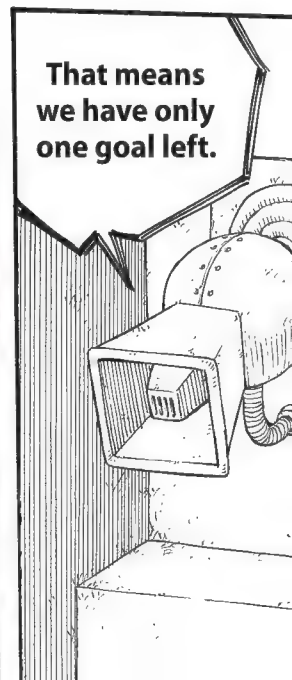
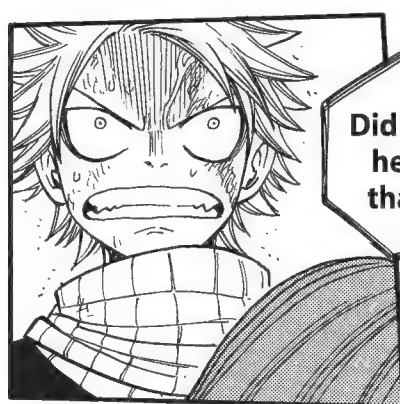














Uwaah!!!

They're suddenly a lot stronger than they were!!!

Wh-What's with these guys...?!



Gah!!

Wha...?!

GOOM



Uff!!



GANCH

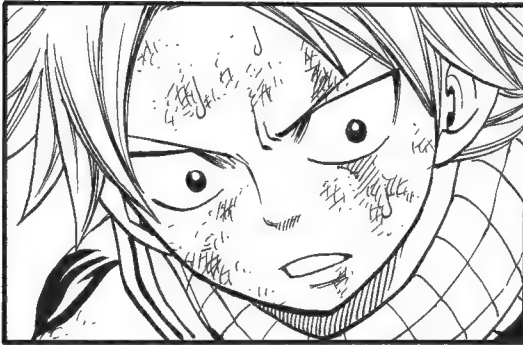
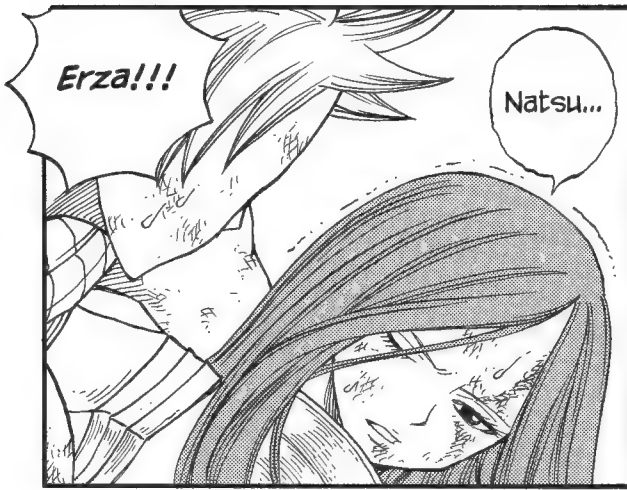


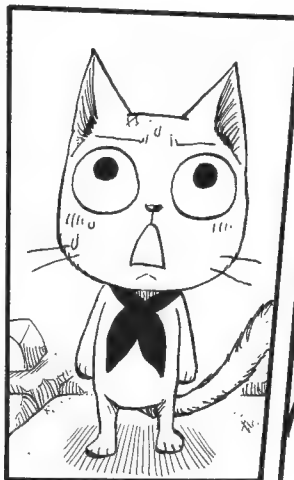
All you upstart brats!!!

The goal of killing you...

ZULUINN

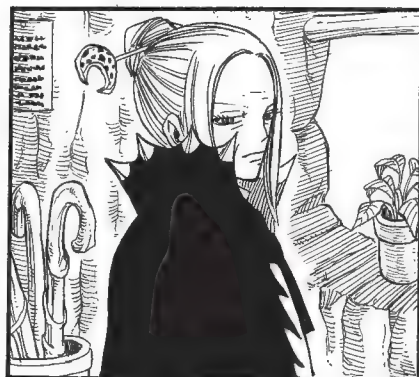
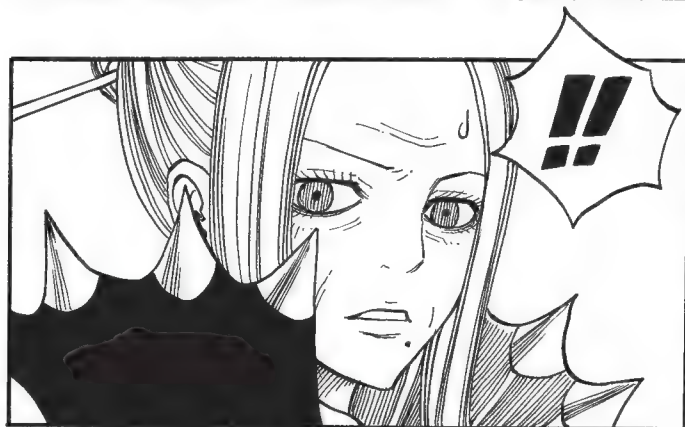
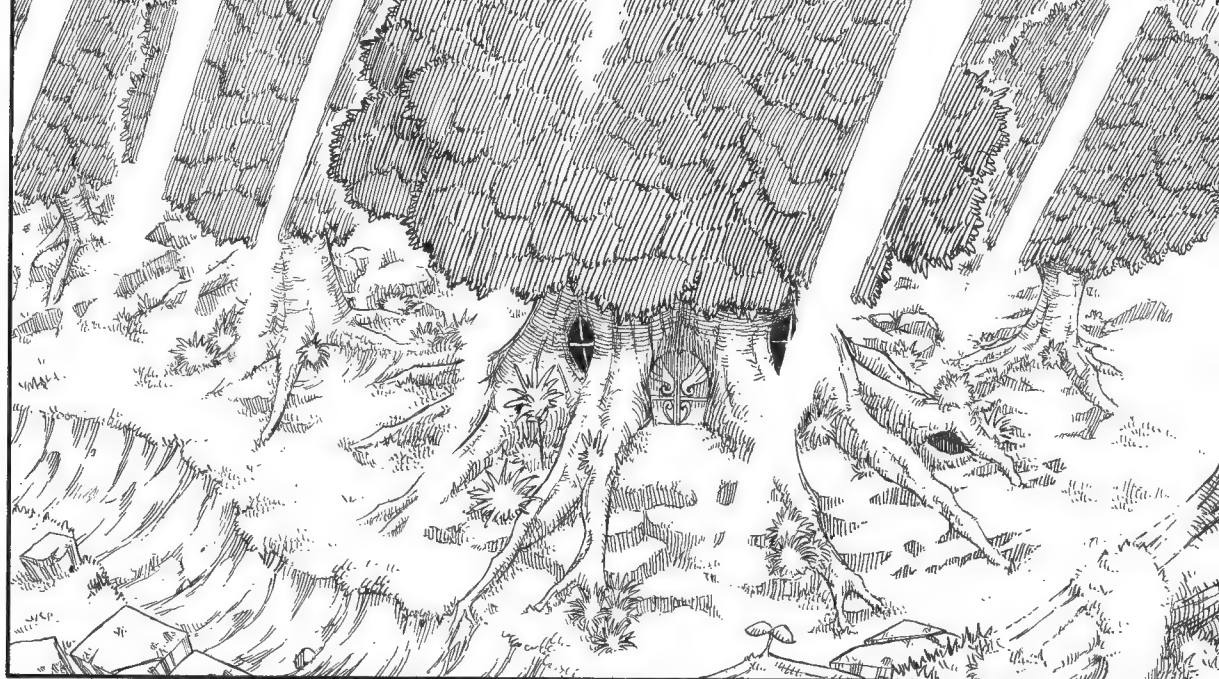








WOAAAAAH



FAIRY TAIL

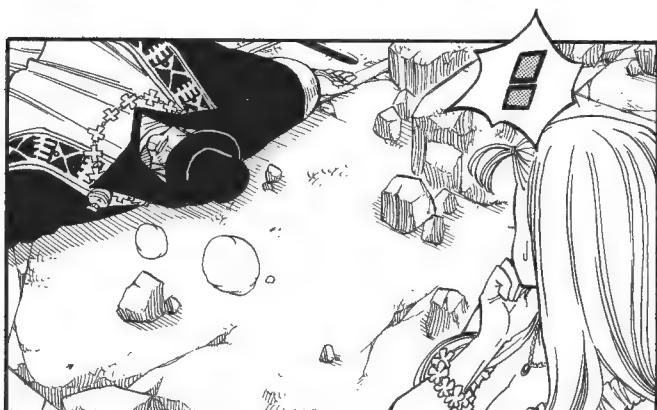
Chapter 60: Wings of Fire

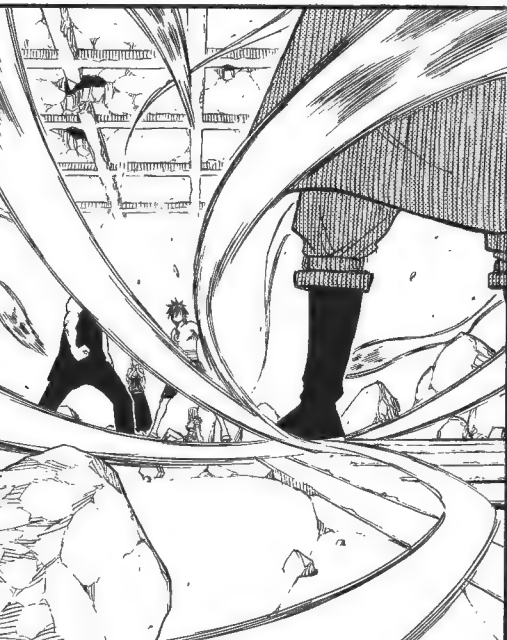
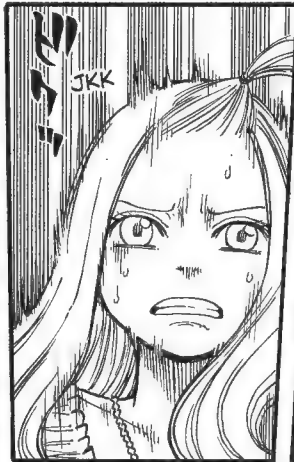
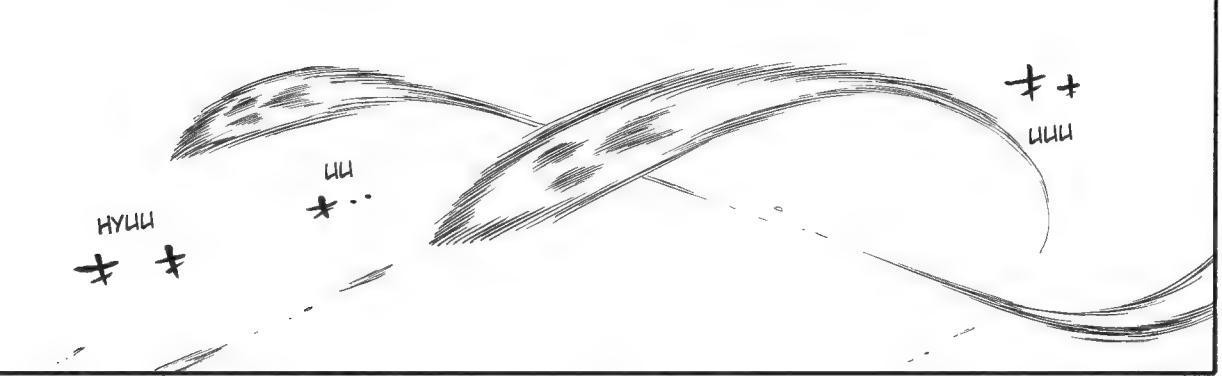



FAIRY TAIL	
Name: Vijeeter Ecor	Age: 16 yrs.
Magic: Dance	
Likes: Dance	Dislikes: Fermented soybeans
	

Remarks

By dancing particular dances, he can do things such as boost the fighting power of all of his friends within a ten-meter radius or, similarly, reduce the fighting power of enemies with his dance magic. He's always loved dance, and can regularly be seen dancing within the guild. His plan for the future seems to be to save up his cash and go study at Minstrel, the cultural capital of dance. But he never can seem to save any money. As a side note, he has a hundred suits that all look alike.

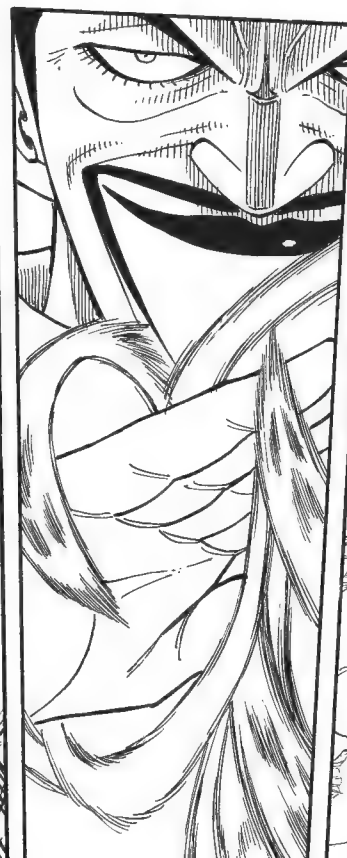
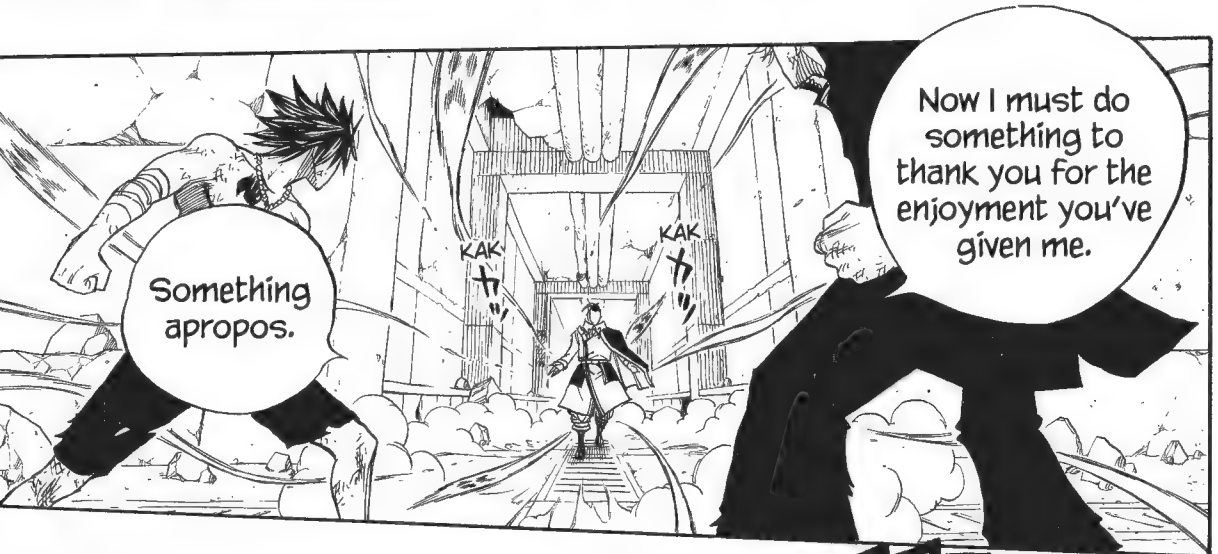


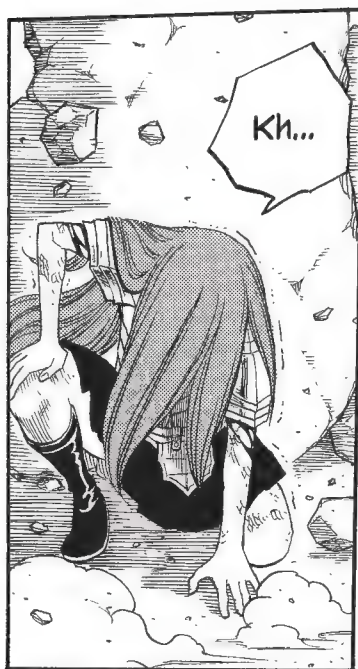




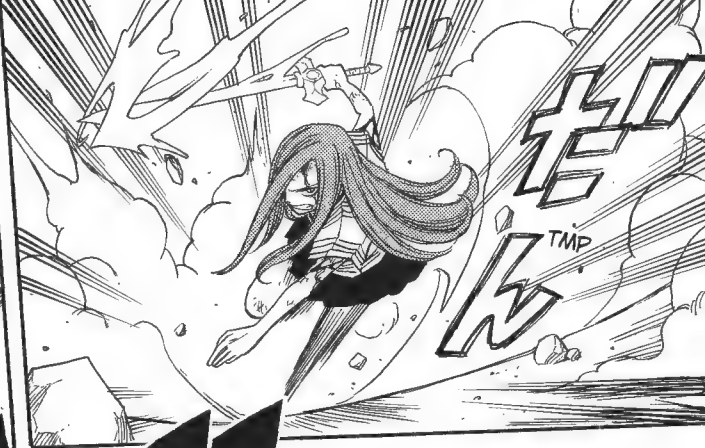
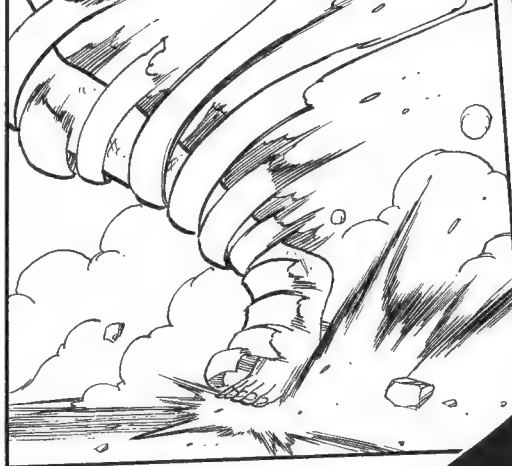
Honestly,
I never thought
you would give
me this much
fun!!

**Master
Jose!!!!**



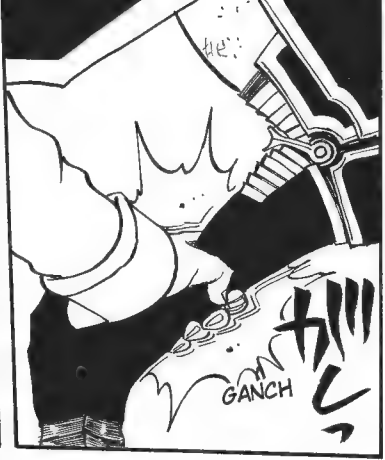


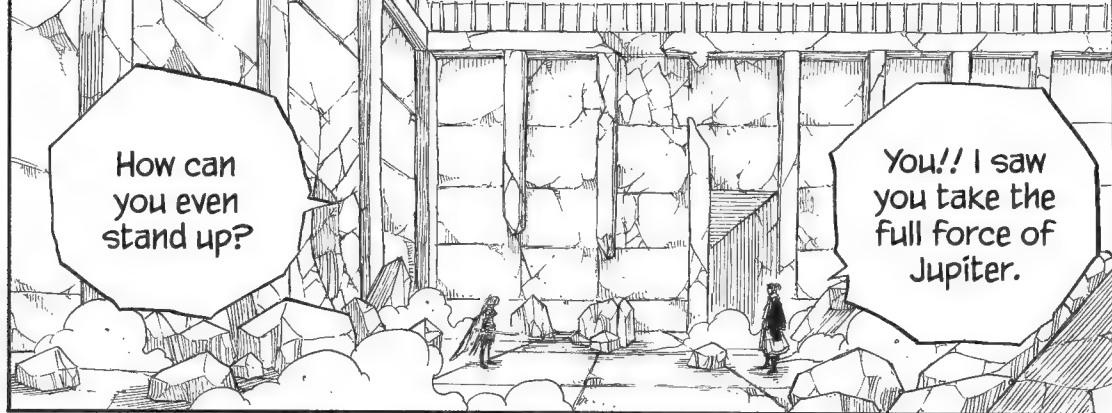




巨大な足







How can
you even
stand up?

You!! I saw
you take the
full force of
Jupiter.



My friends
strengthen
my heart.

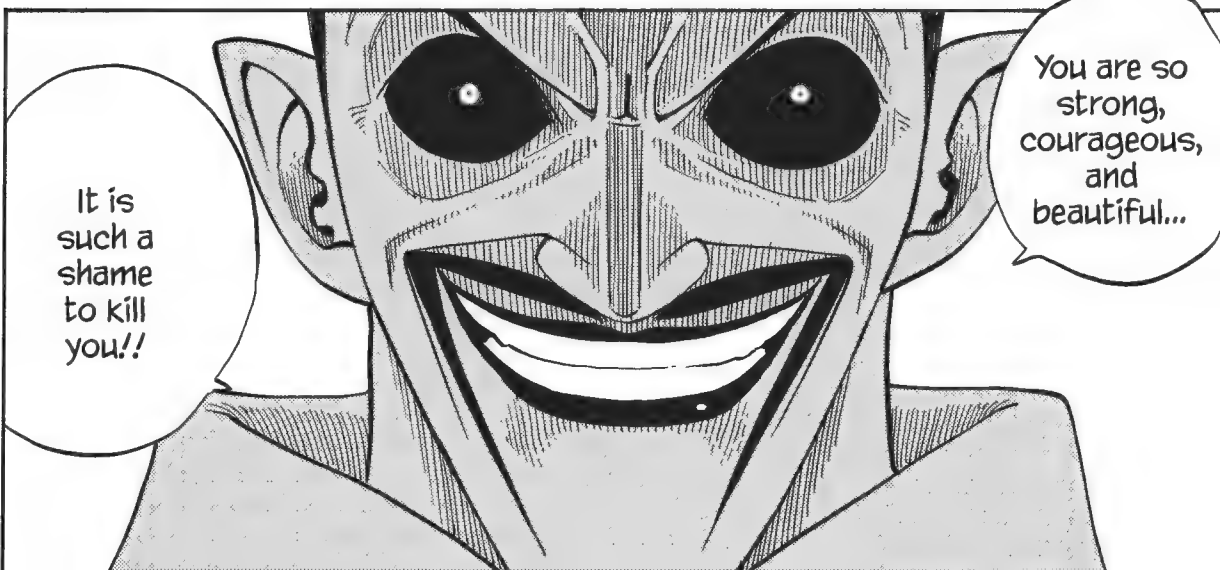
HAHH

HAHH

HAHH

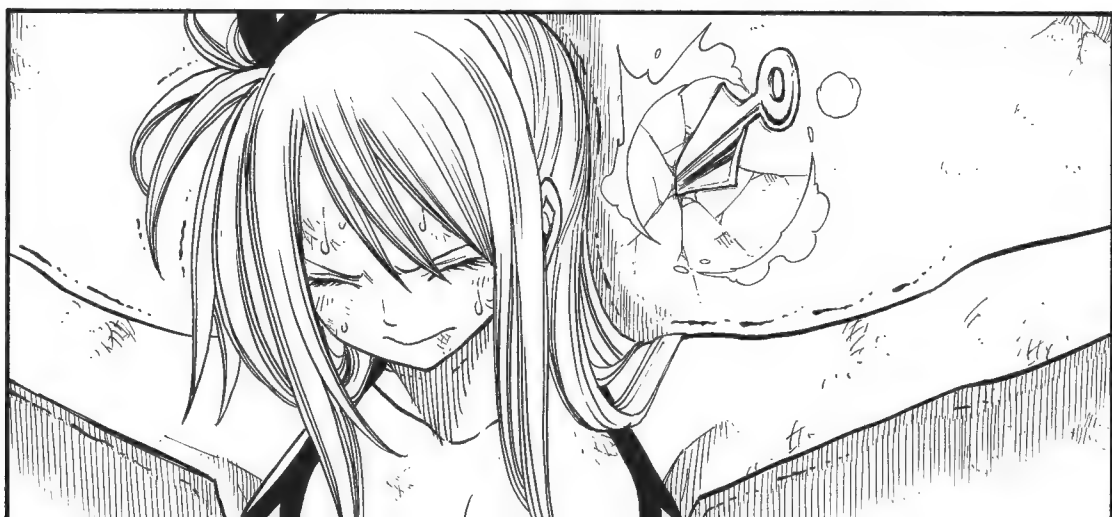
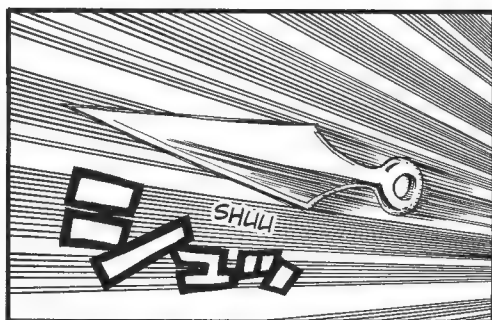
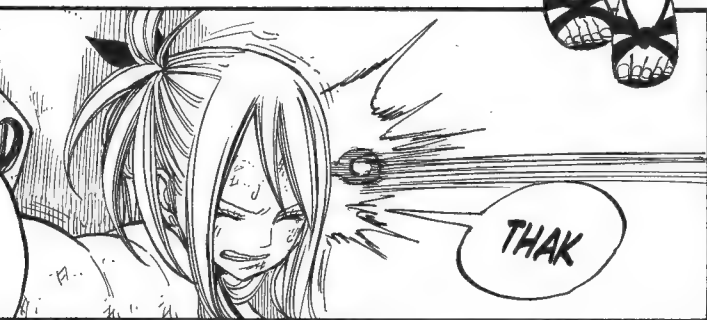
HAHH

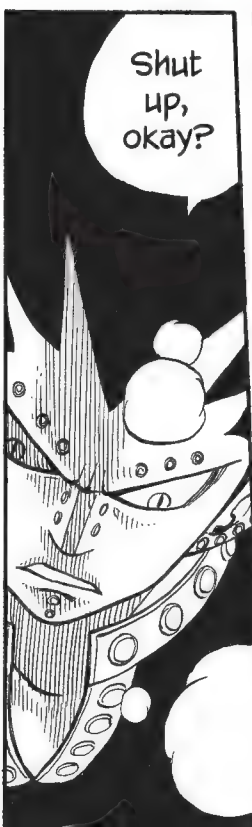
Physical
pain means
nothing when
I fight for the
ones I love!!!



It is
such a
shame
to kill
you!!

You are so
strong,
courageous,
and
beautiful...







B-But if she dies, then the Master will get really angry, you...

I-I mean, Mr. Gajeel, sir!

You're joking!

That's okay. I'll just lay the blame on you guys.



It doesn't matter if she lives or dies.

I don't care whose little princess this chickie is.

To me, she's got no more worth than somebody's pre-wiped turd!!



Heh heh.



It's because the chickie is the daughter of somebody rich that those Fairy Tail butt-wipes want her back so much!!

Geez, this is so stupid!

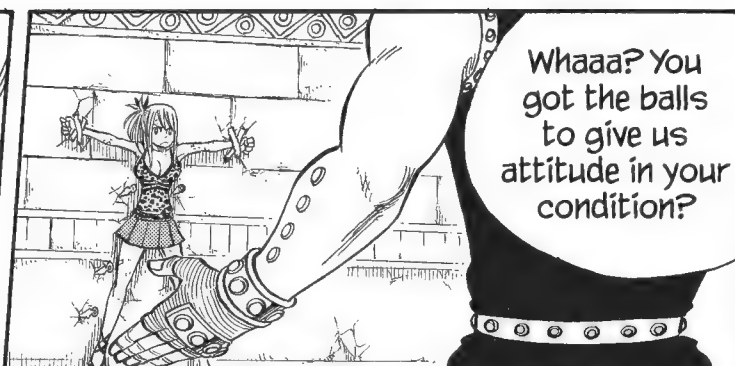


I was saying that you're so pitiful you could make me cry!

You guys really are as stupid as you look.



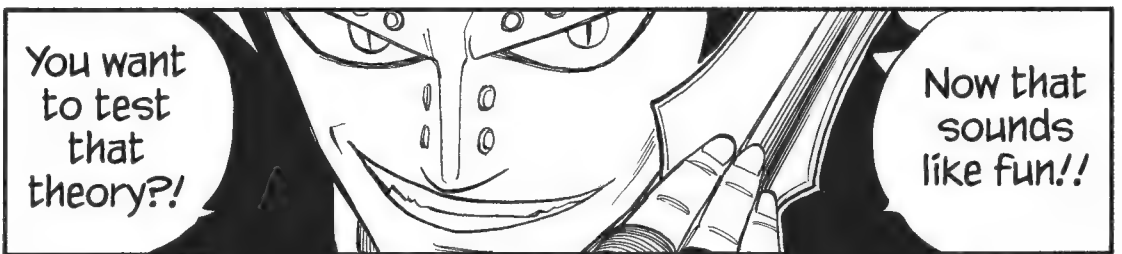
Hmm? You said something, chickie?





*For the
rest of
your
short
lives!!!*

*You will spend
each day
trembling in
the shadow
of the
world's most
frightening
guild.*



*You want
to test
that
theory?!*

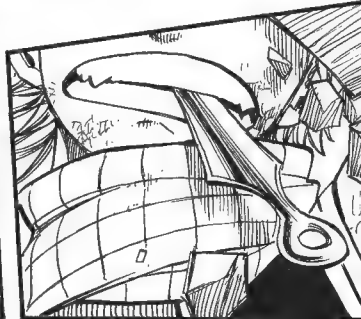
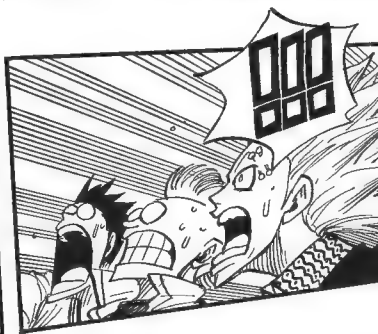
*Now that
sounds
like fun!!*

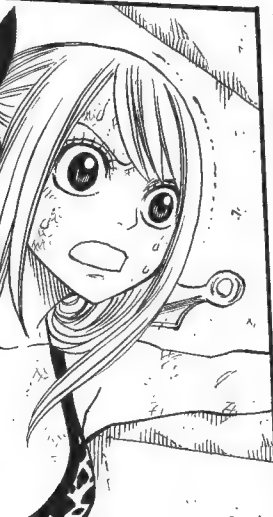


*That's
going to
hit her!!*

*Gajeel!!!
What are
you...?!!!*



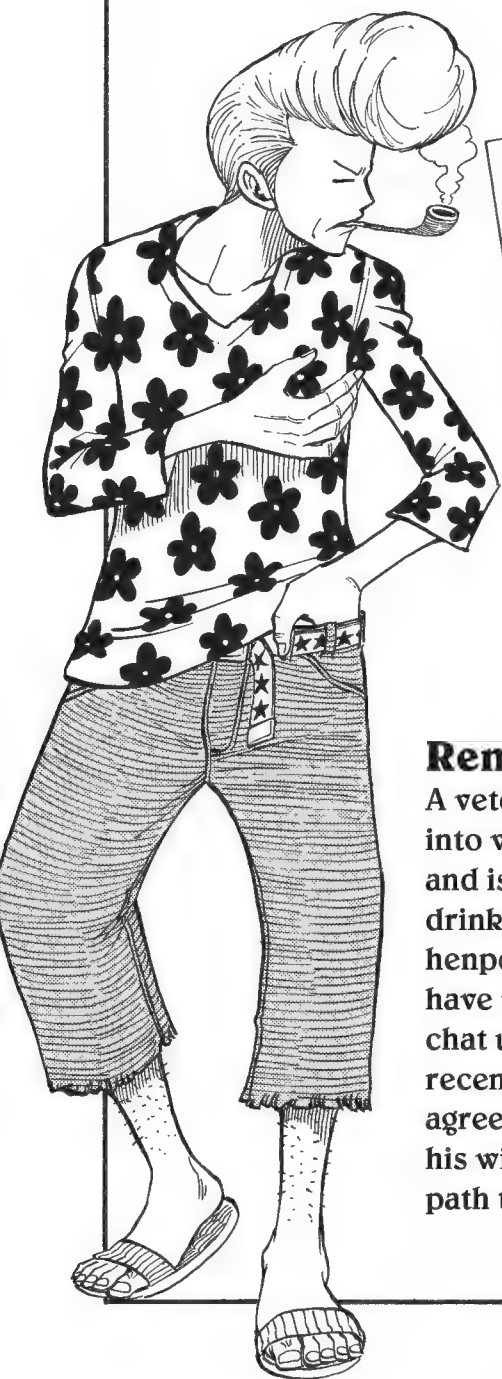








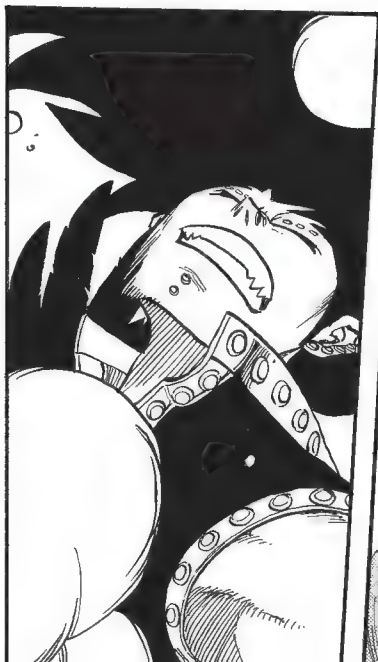
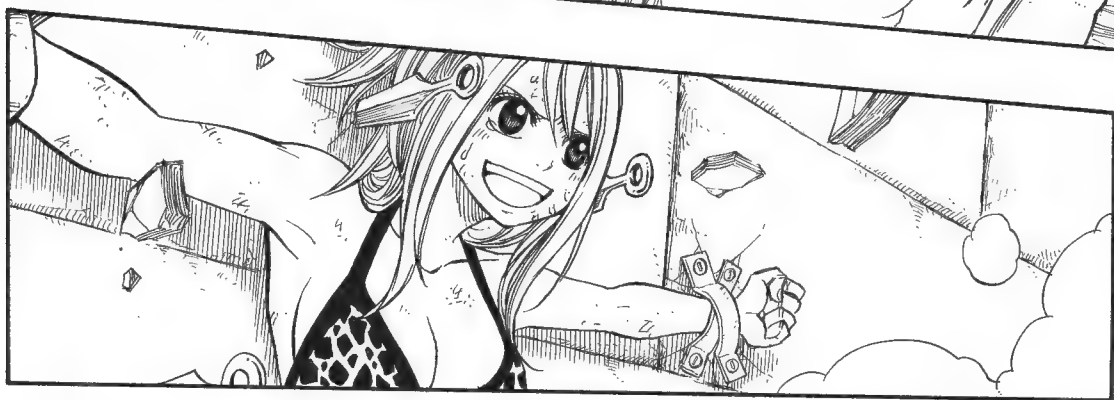
FAIRY TAIL



Remarks

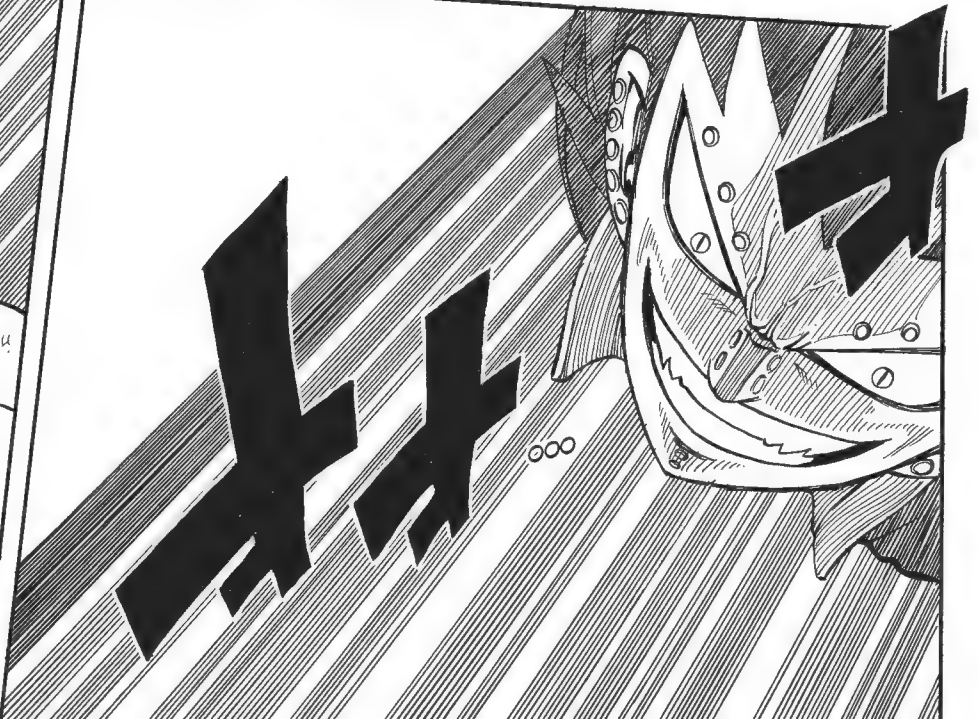
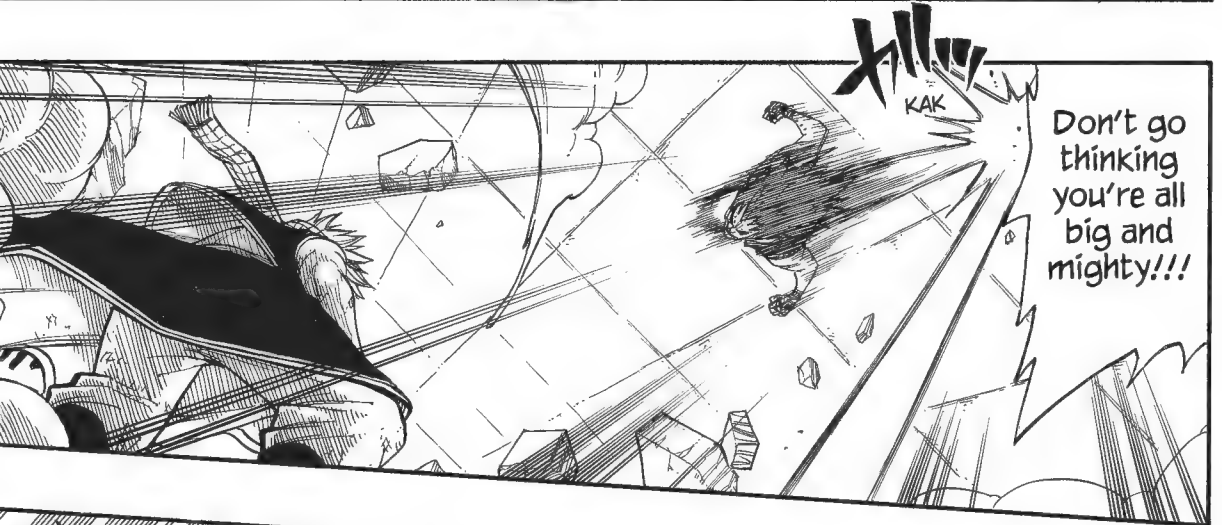
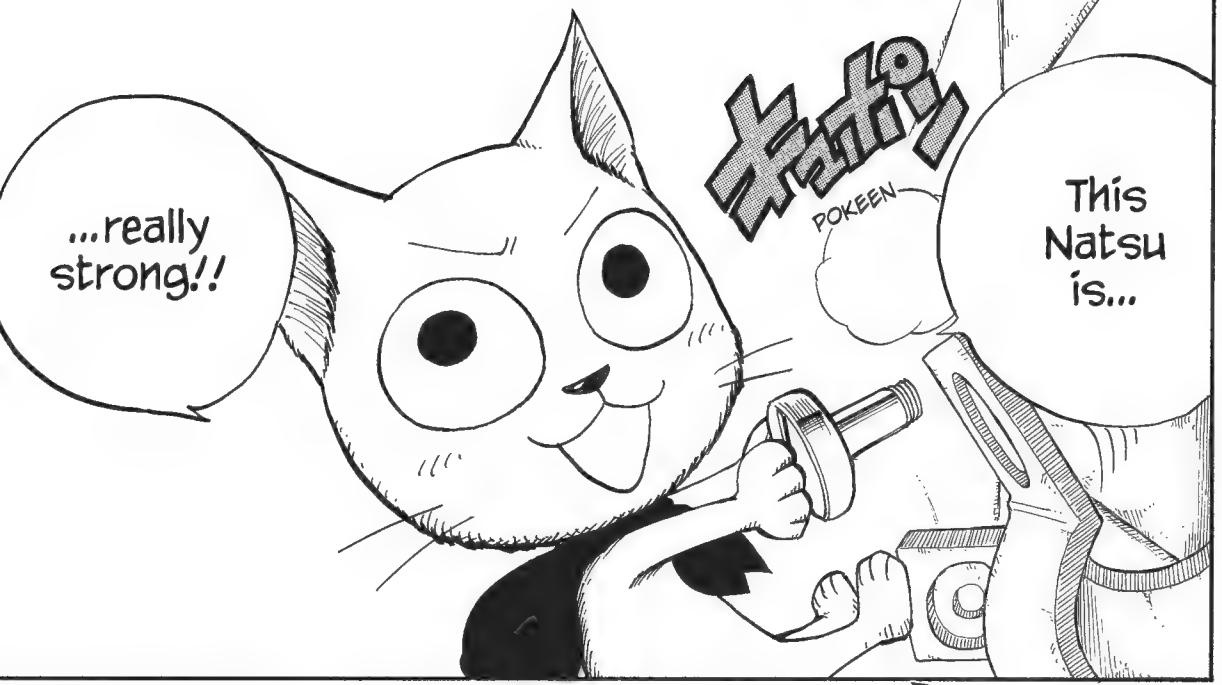
A veteran wizard who can fight by shaping smoke into various forms. He has much the same history and is the same age as Macao, so at times they are drinking buddies, and at other times, rivals. He is henpecked by his wife, so even when he doesn't have work, you can find him at the guild trying to chat up the pretty young guild employees. His most recent target was Mirajane, saying that if she would agree to go out with him, he would break it off with his wife. She turned him down flat. He's well on the path to mastering the art of being a creepy old guy.

Chapter 61: The Two Dragon Slayers



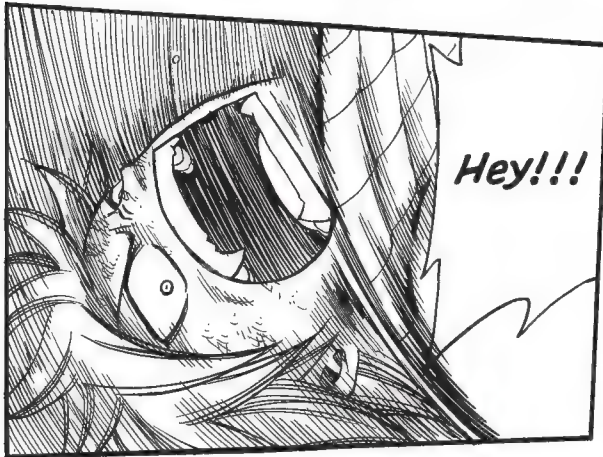








*Iron Dragon Club!!!!





GRATCH

GWOO KAKK

Karyû-no-Kagizume
!!!!*

Grkk!!

*Fire Dragon's Talon!!!!



*Iron Dragon Sword!!!!





Natsu
!!!



Salamander
!!!

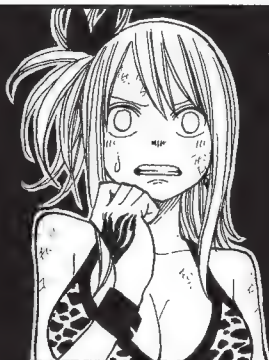
It looks
like we'll
finally get
to finish
this!!



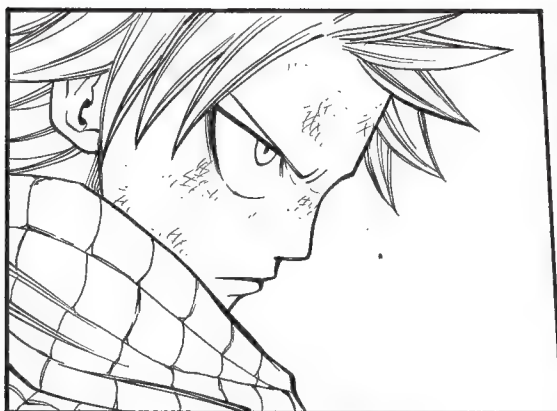
You
scrap-iron
creep!!!

It's got
me all
fired
up!!

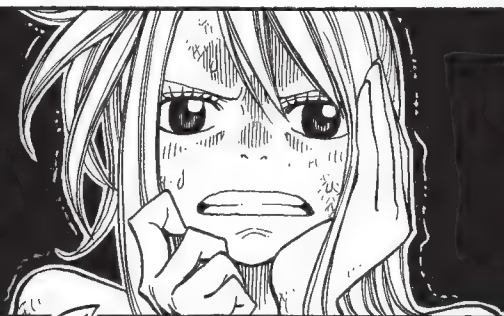
So this means
that two guys with
magic enough
to kill dragons
are fighting each
other?!



Both of them are
dragon slayers!!
They both can make
their bodies take on
dragon powers!!



What is going
to happen to
them?!



W—Wait a
second...







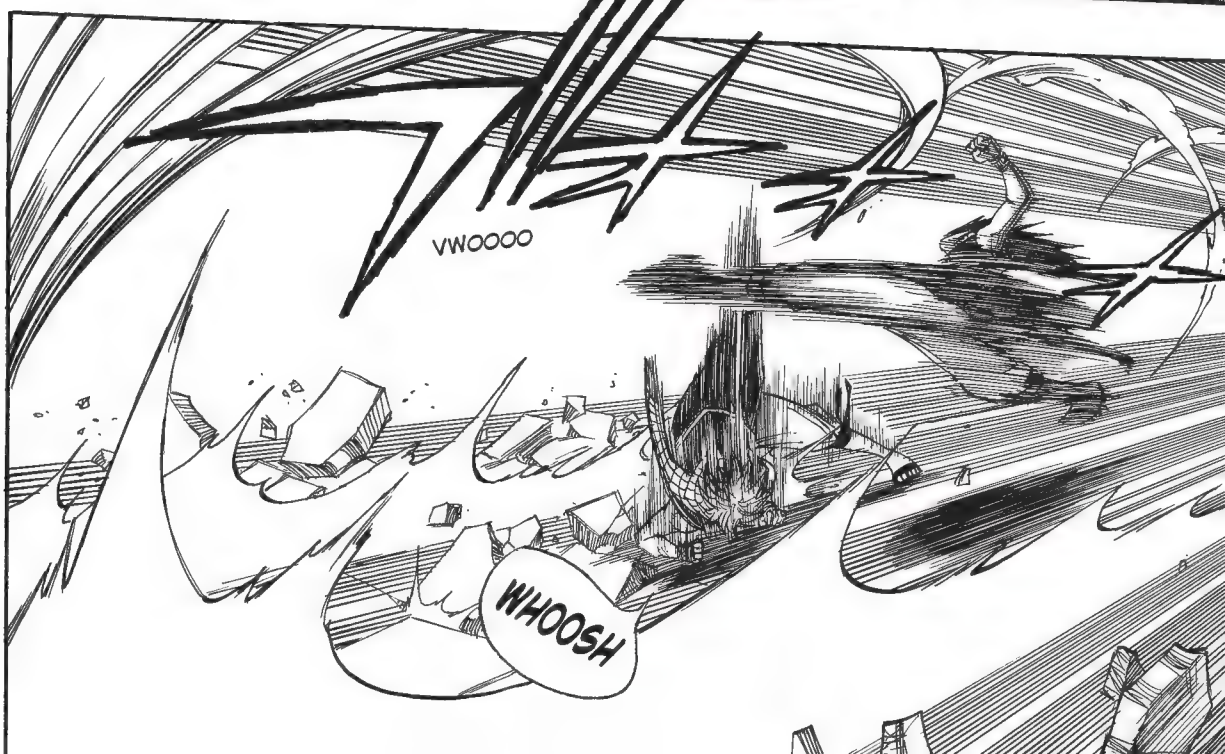
Gee
hee!!!

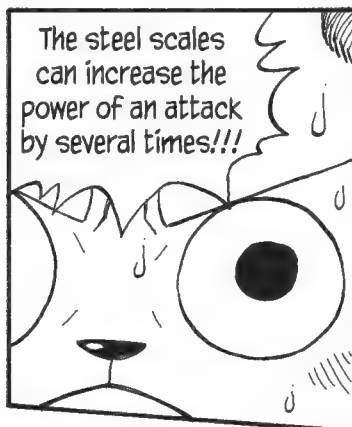


Those
scales are
made of
steel...



He
broke
it...







The steel scales can snuff out the power of any attack!!

Gee hee!!



You mean it increases his defense, too?!!

No!!!

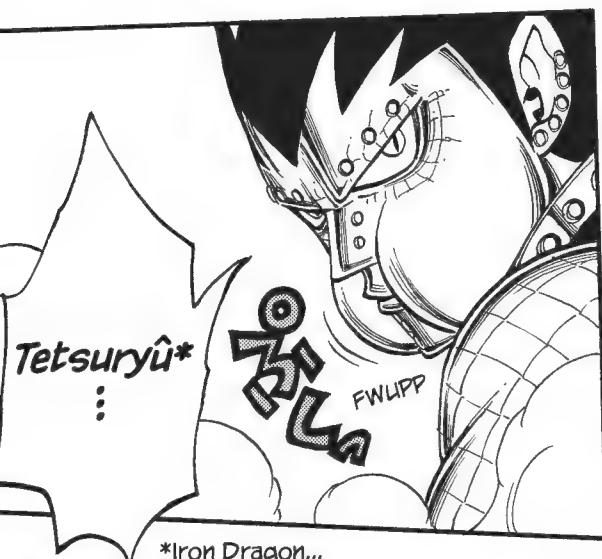


U w a a a h h !!!!



Gaaa!!!!

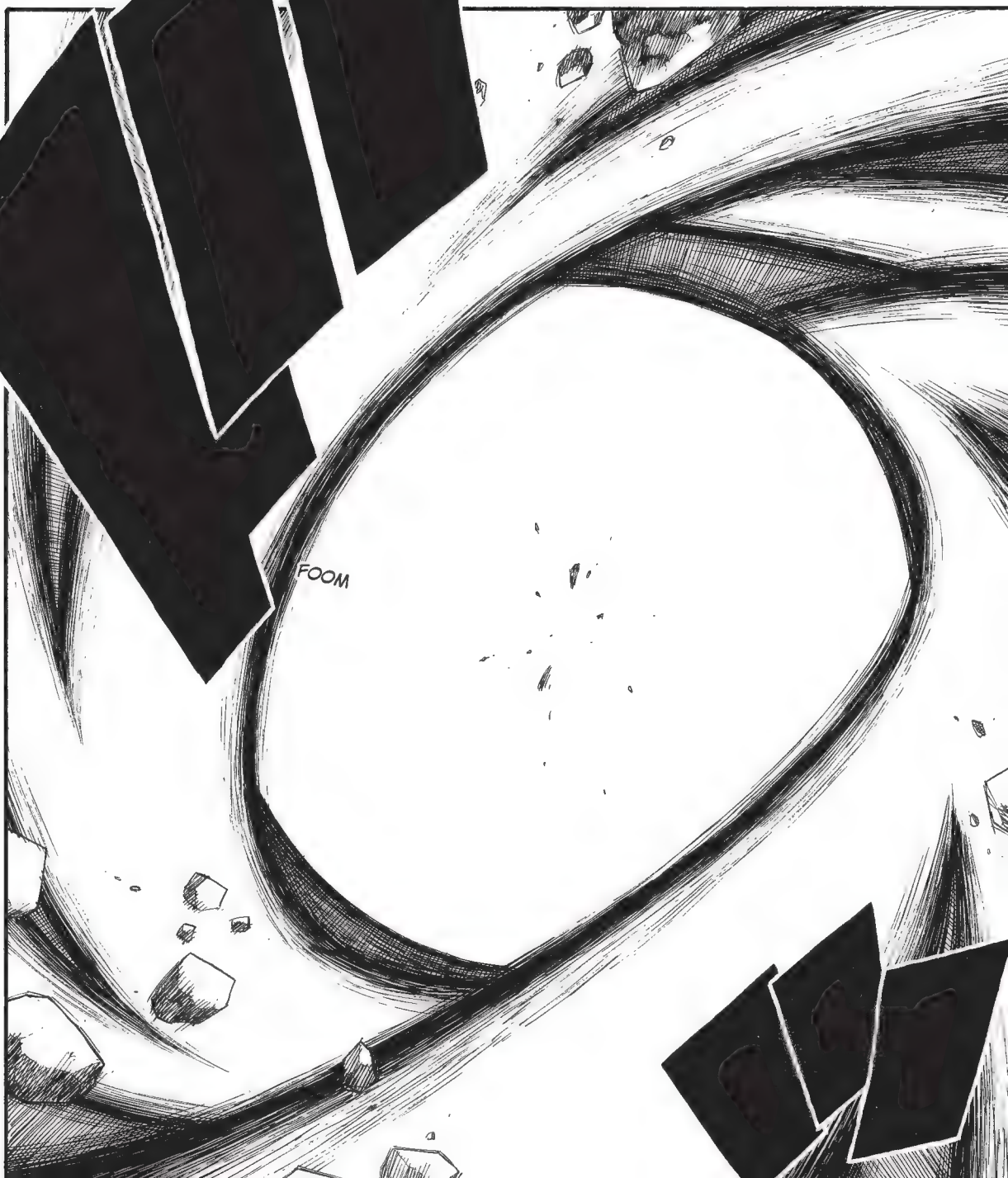
GOOOM

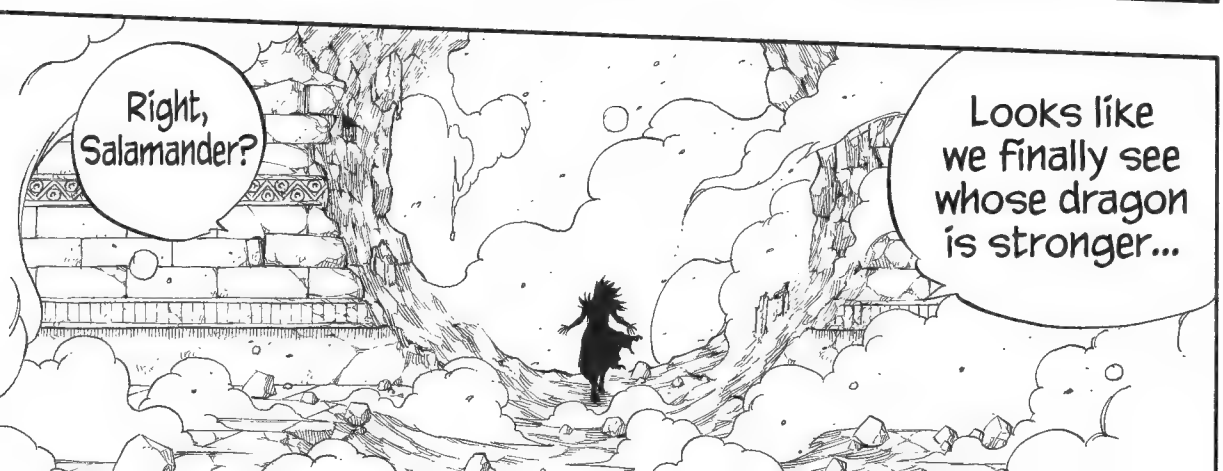
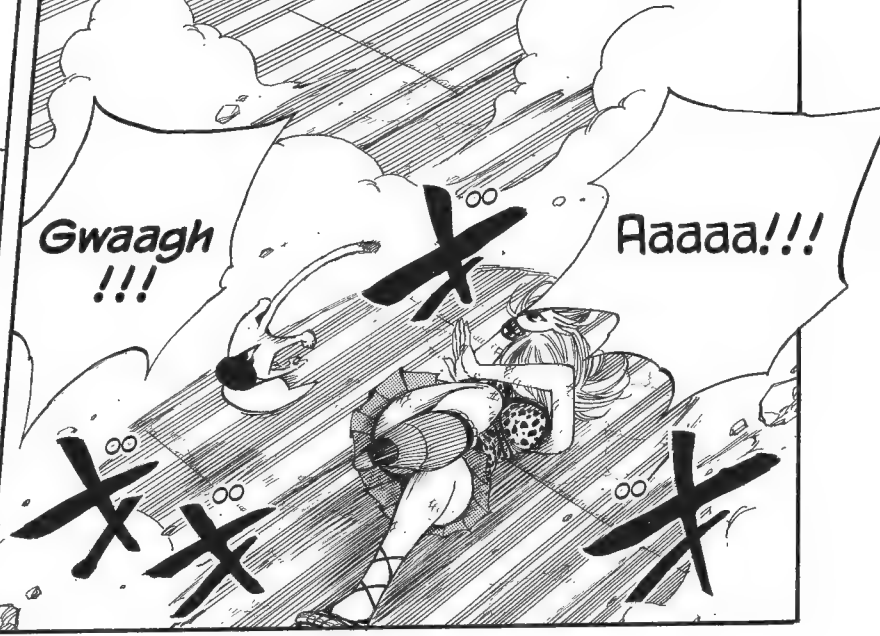


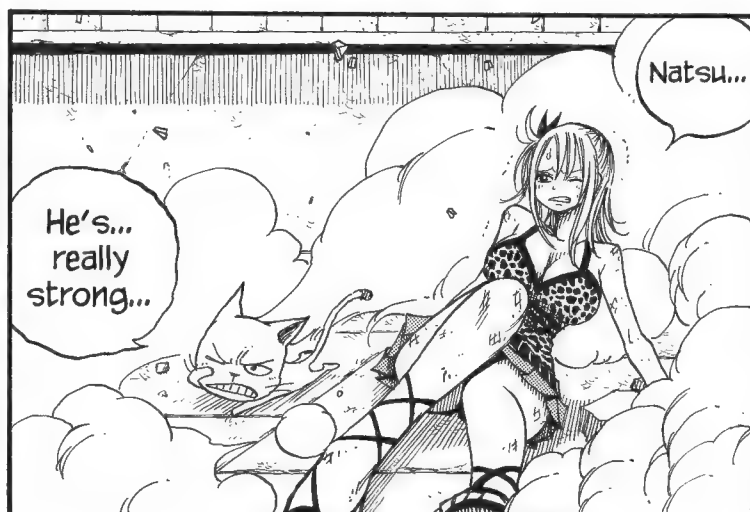
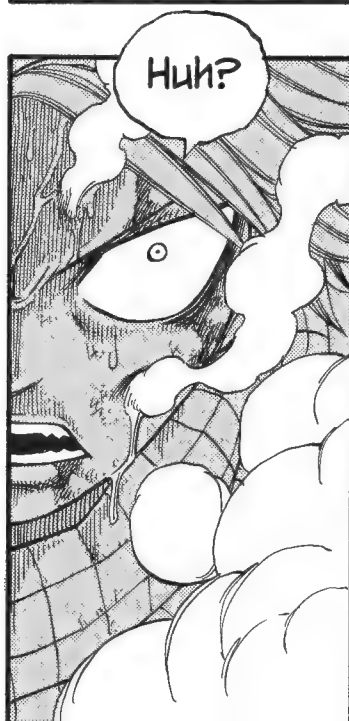


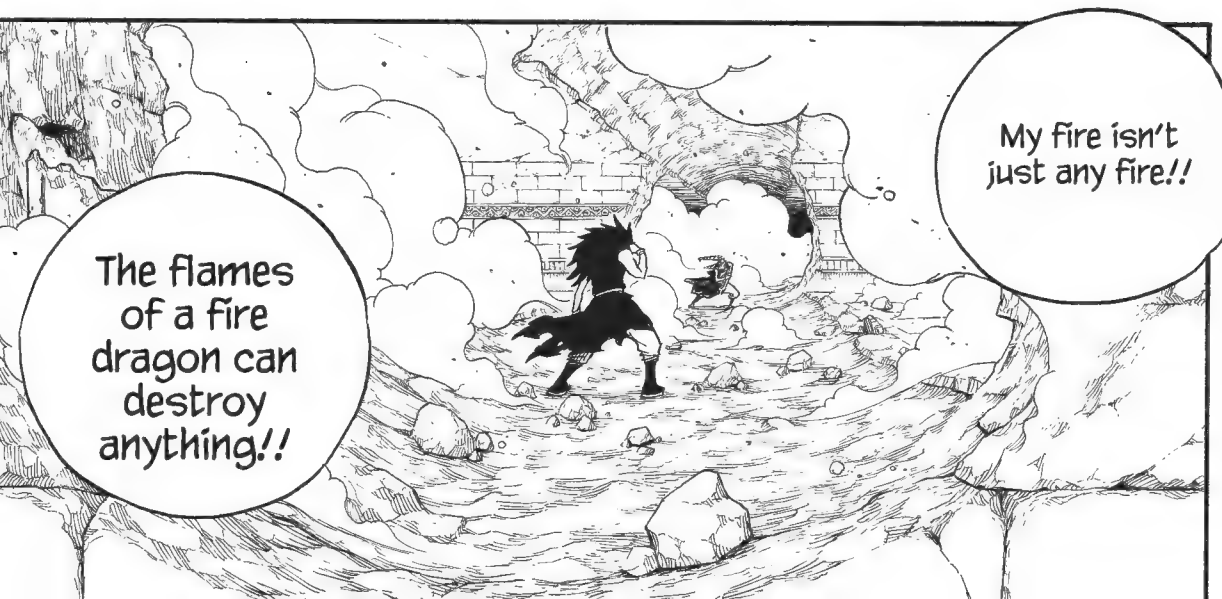
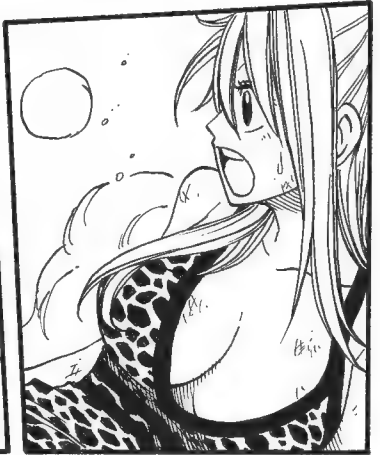
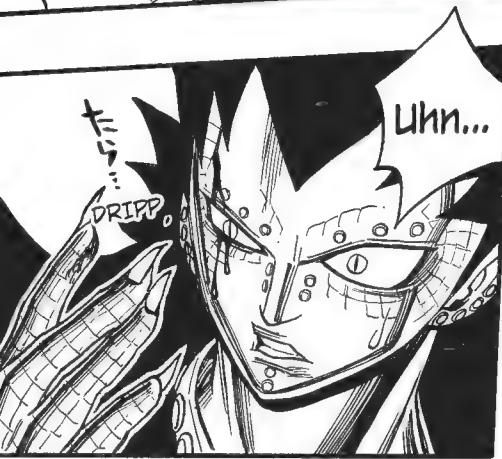
*Hôkô!!!!**

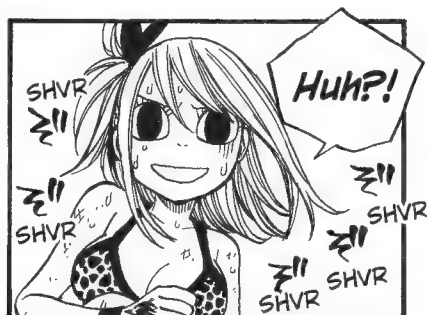
**Roar!!!!*



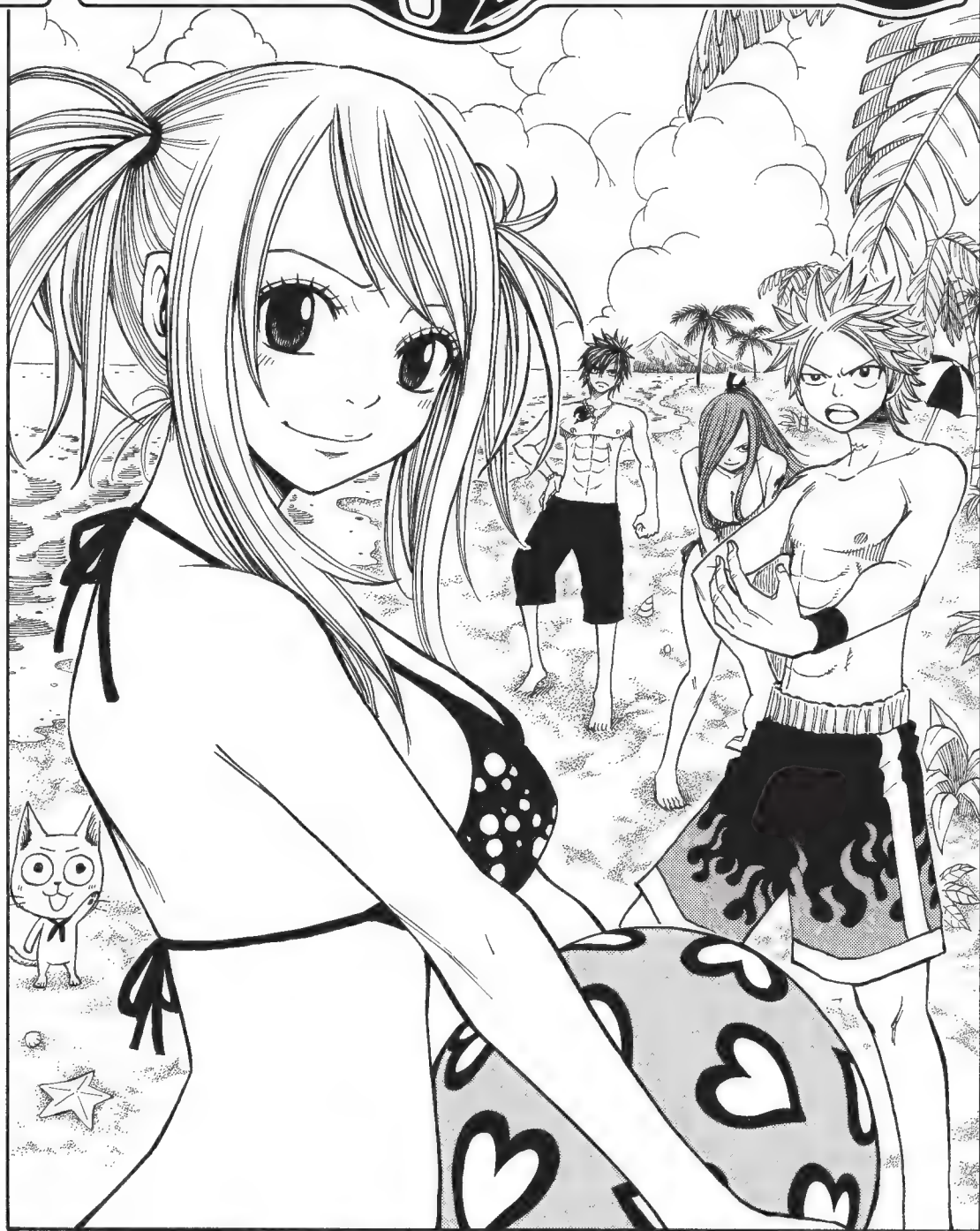






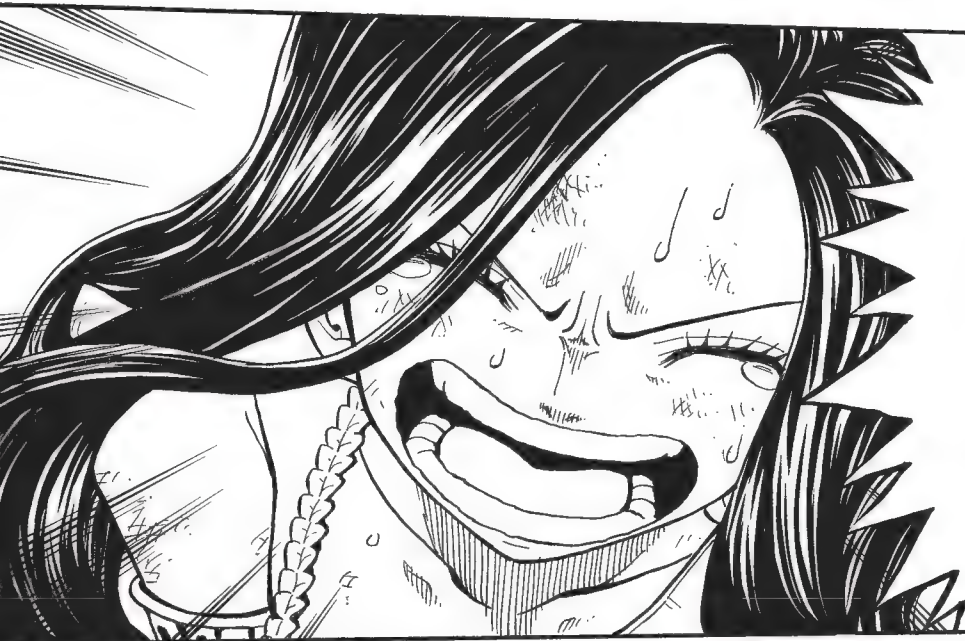
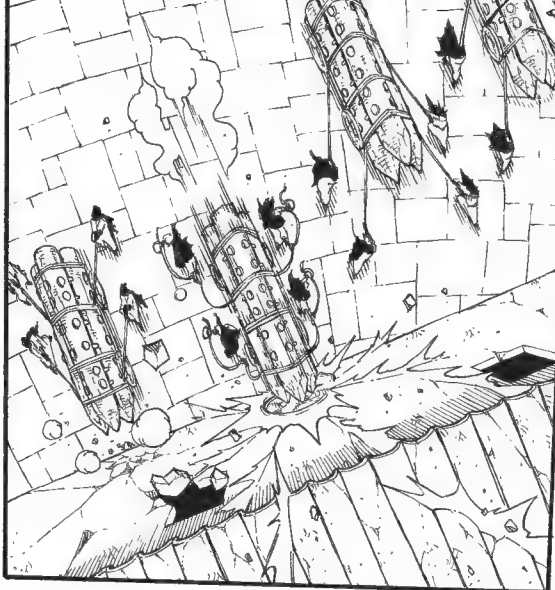


FAIRY TAIL

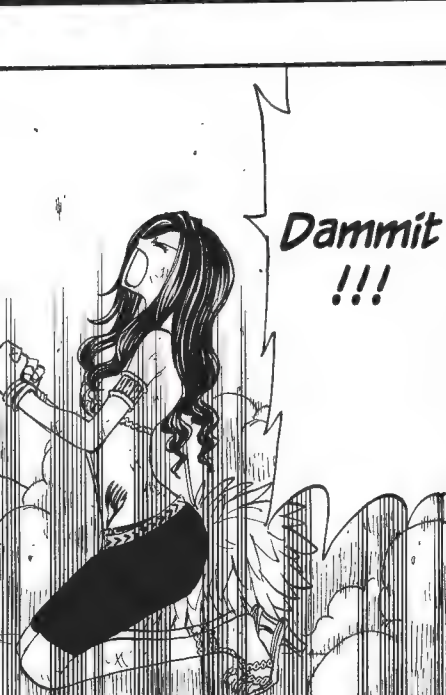


Chapter 62: When the Fairy Fell





What do
you think
you're
doing
to my
guild?!!!



**Dammit
!!!**



Our guild
is going
to break
apart!!!

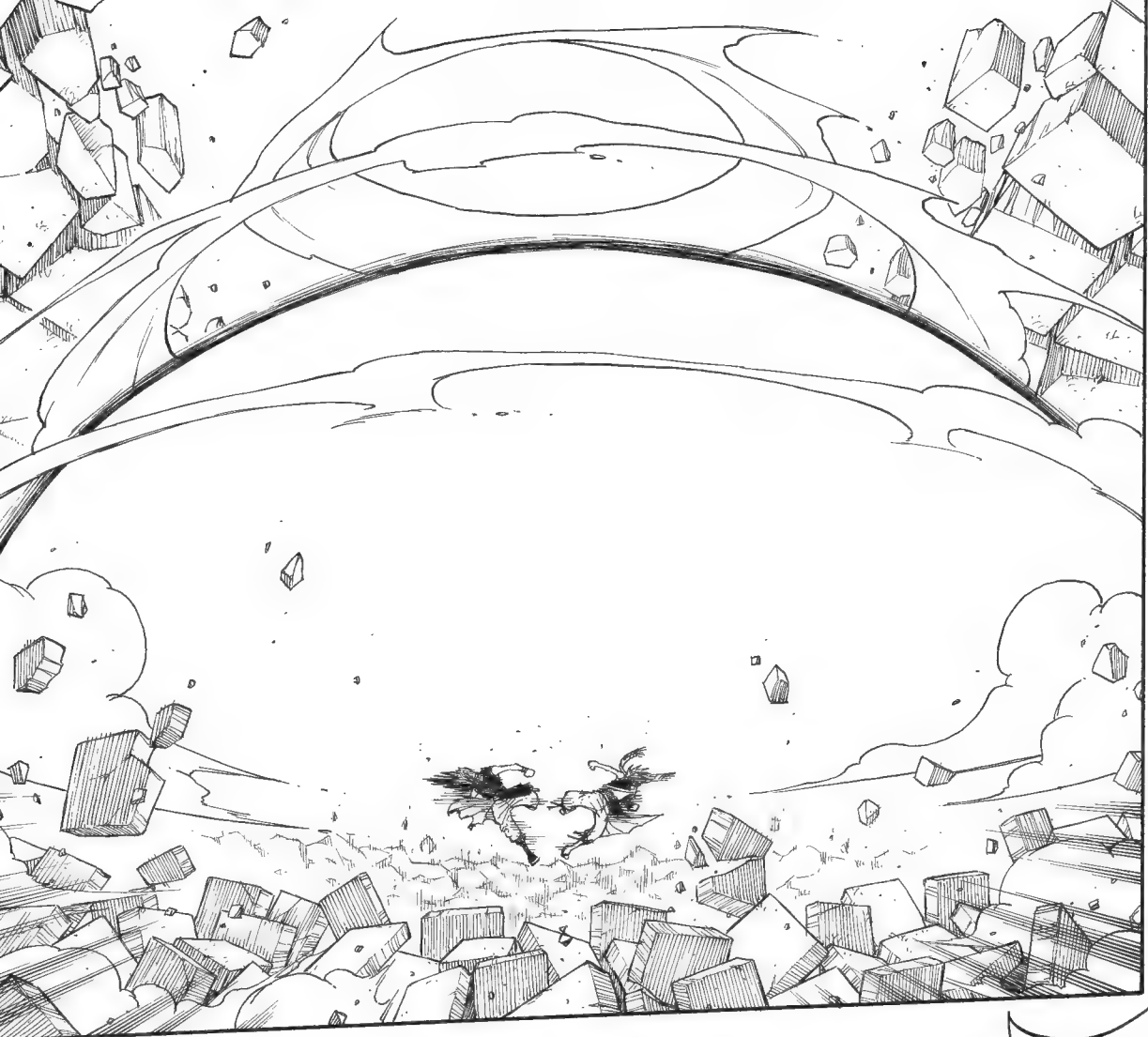
KREEK

CRAKK

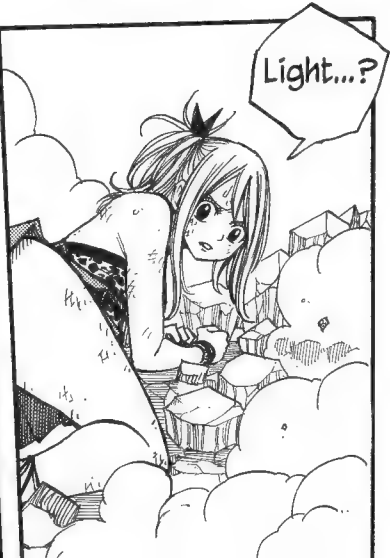
It's
starting
to fall
apart!!!

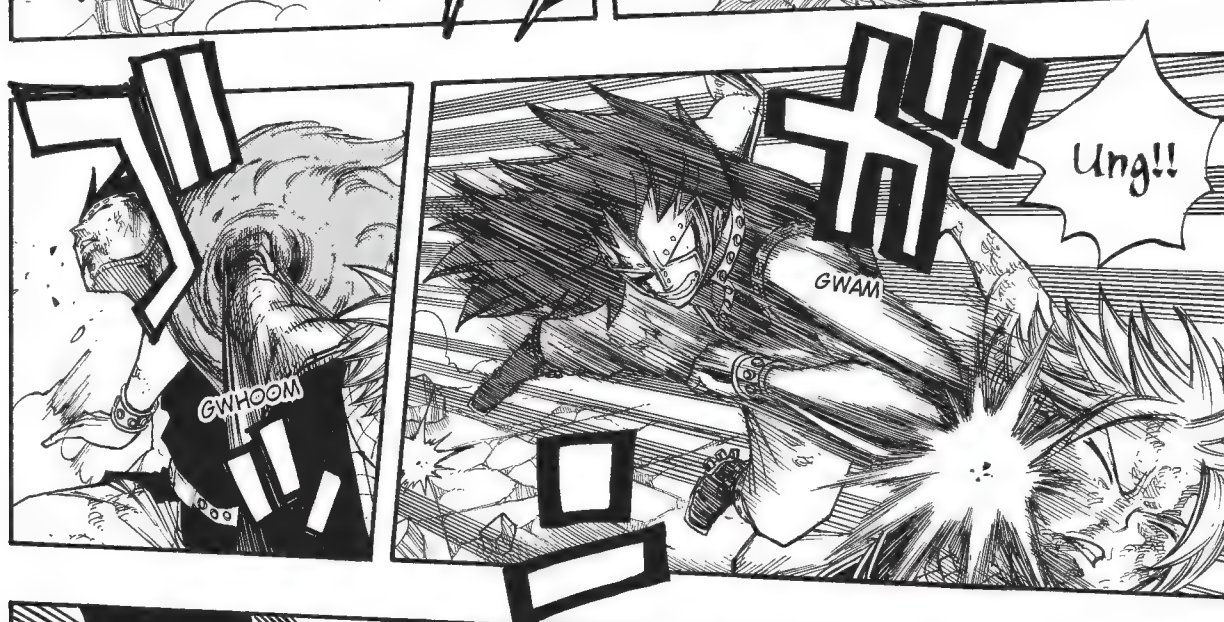
Don't do
that!!!

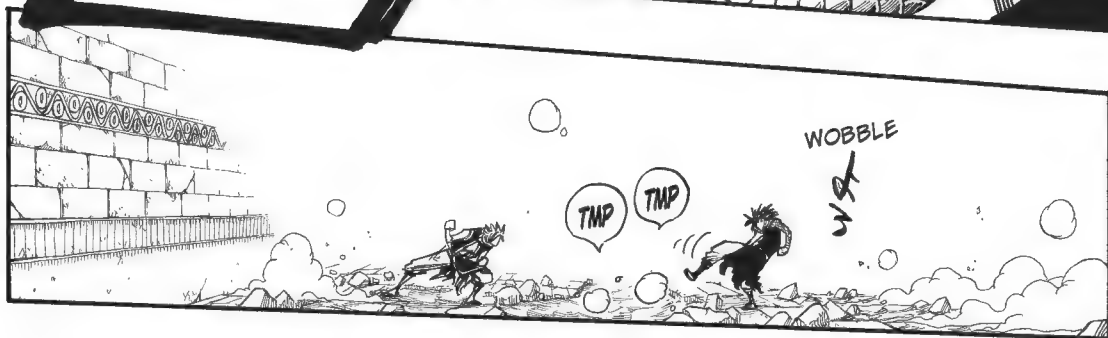
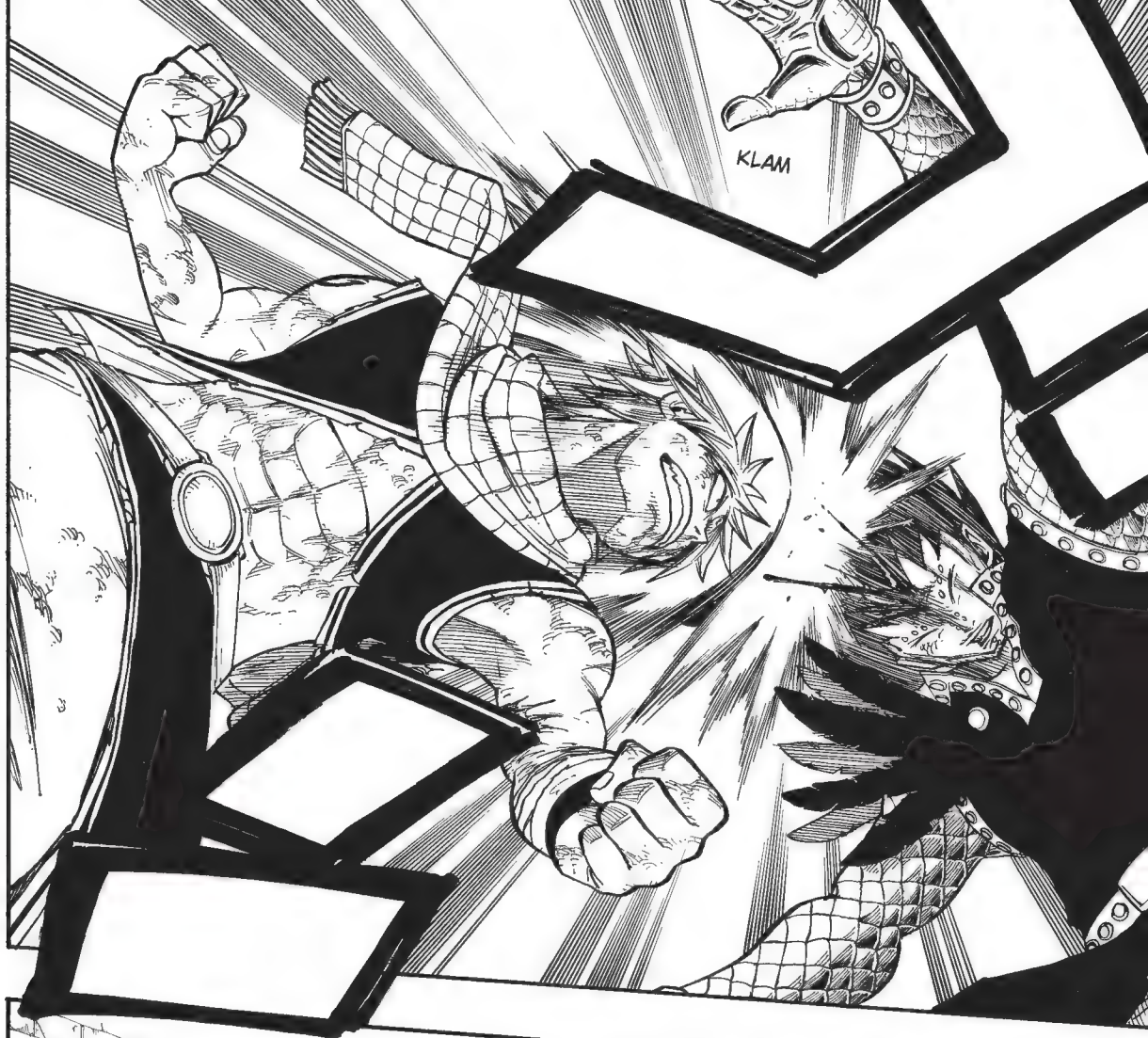


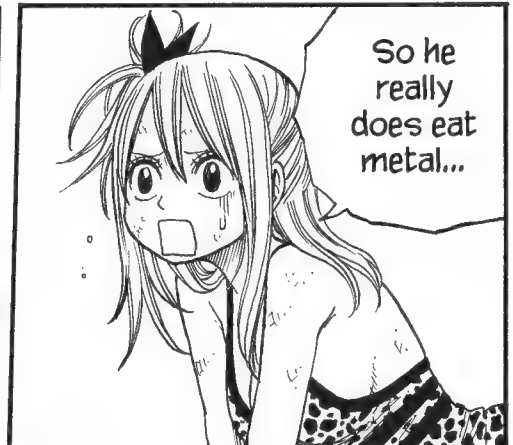
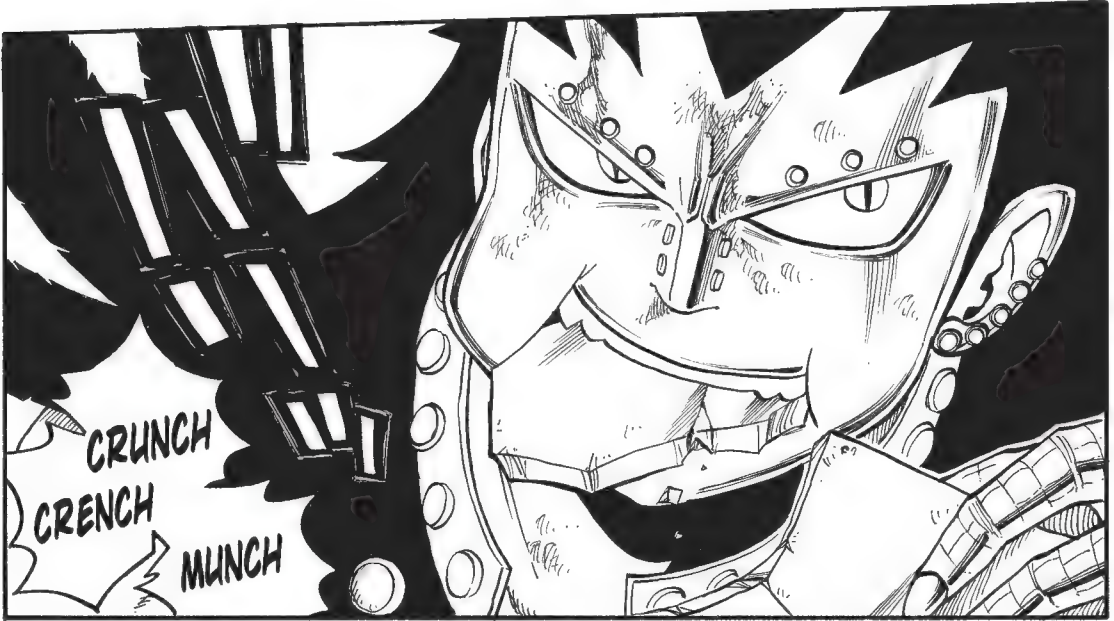


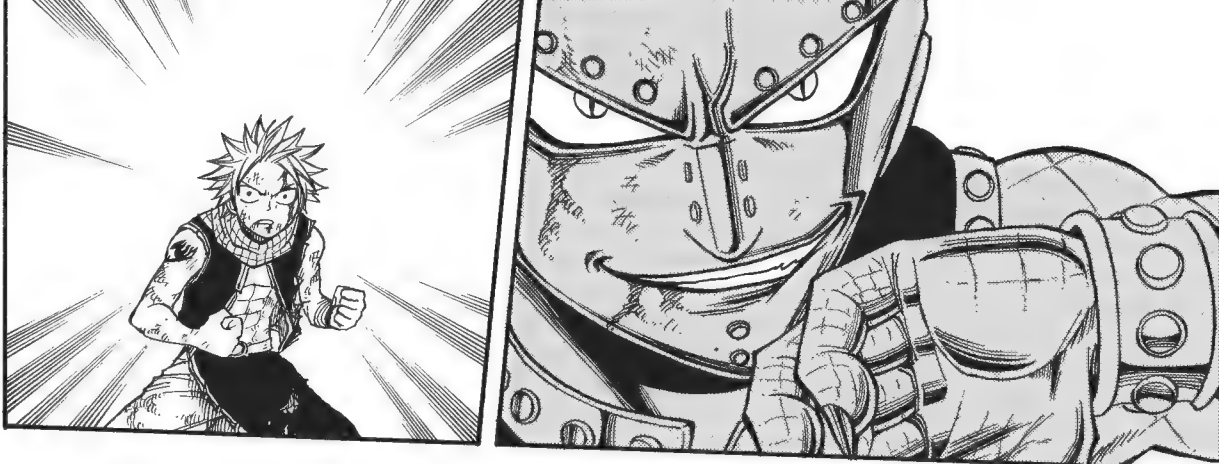












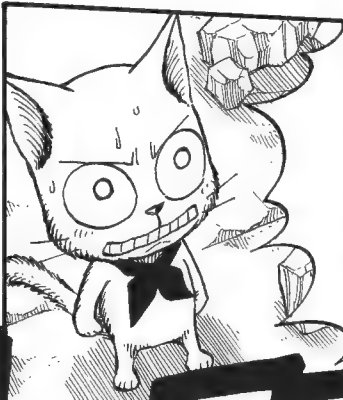
*Iron Dragon Lance: Demon Logs



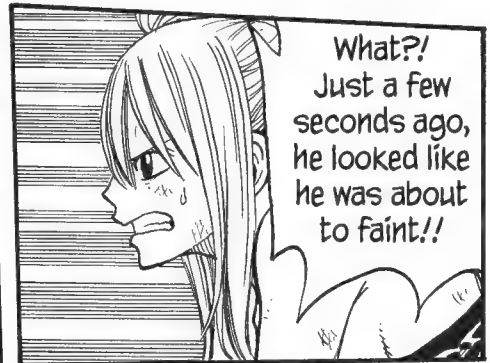
Tetsuryû
Sô: Kishin
!!!!*



Gwaaaa
!!!!



When a dragon
slayer eats
material that
matches his
abilities, he can
recover and even
get extra
power!!



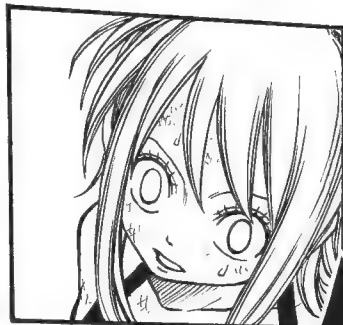
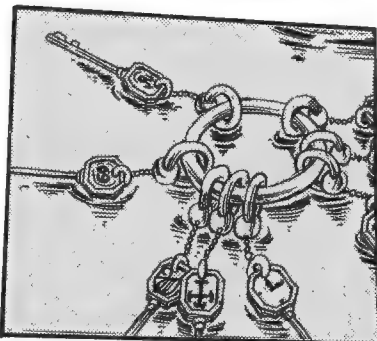
What?!
Just a few
seconds ago,
he looked like
he was about
to faint!!



That's right...
Natsu said
that he
can't eat his
own fire, or
fire that he
produces...

Then Natsu
should eat
some
of his
fire...

GWAAM



**Open!!!
Gate of the
Man-Horse
Palace!!!**

I call as one
who is bound
to the path of
the celestial
spirit world...

I call on you
to answer and
pass through
your gate!!!



I come!!
Moshi-
moshi!!

HEEHEE

HEEEEN

Sagittarius!!!!

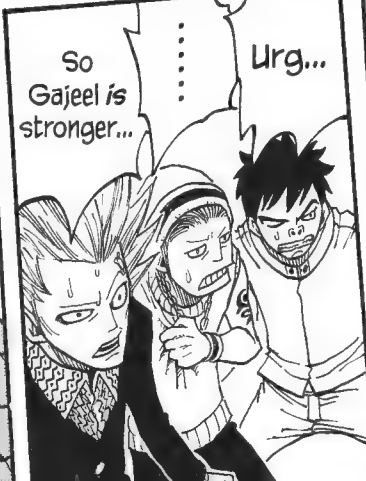
I do not!
I only claim
to be very
accurate with a
bow and arrow.
Moshi-
moshi.

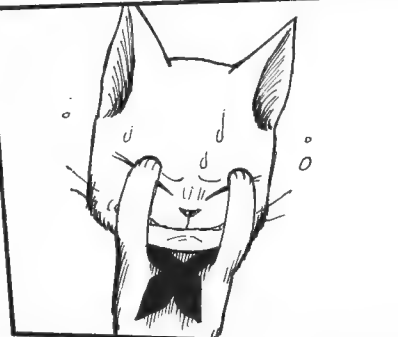
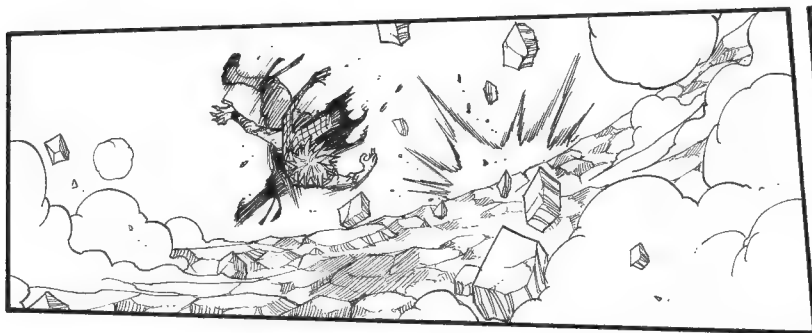
We'll have to
save the details
for later!! Do you
have any kind of
fire beam or
attack like that?

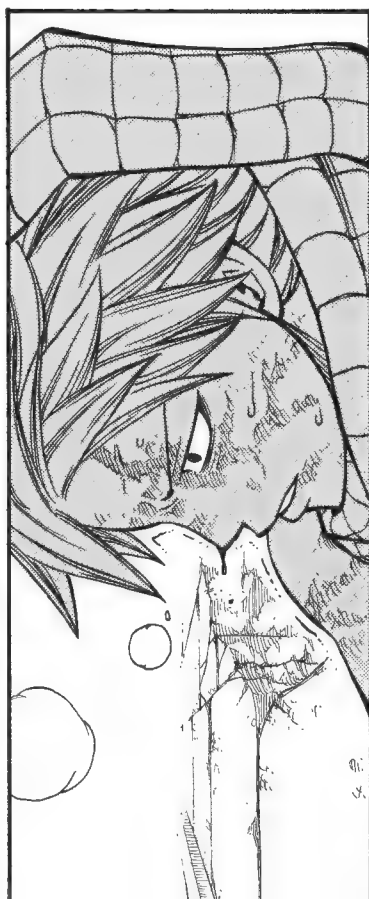
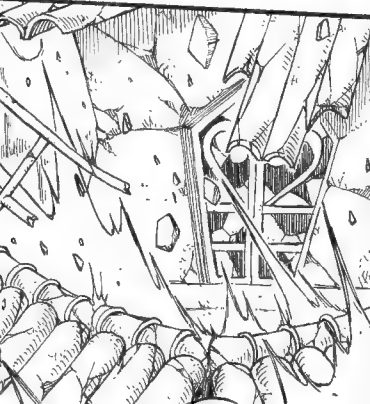
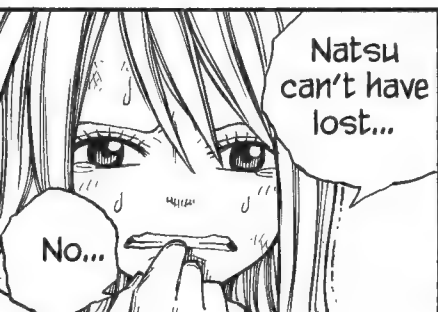
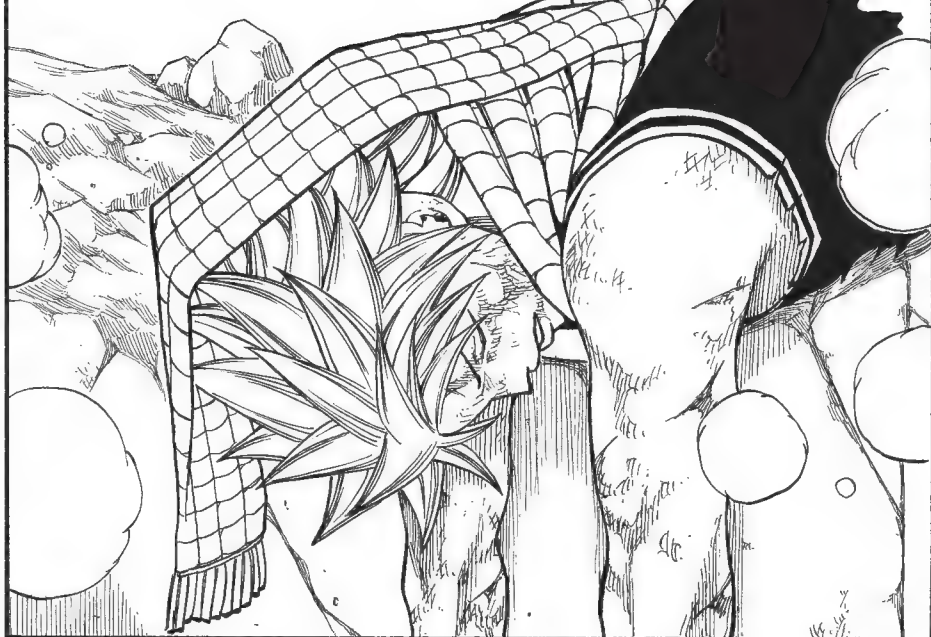
A man
in a
horse
cos-
tume?!!

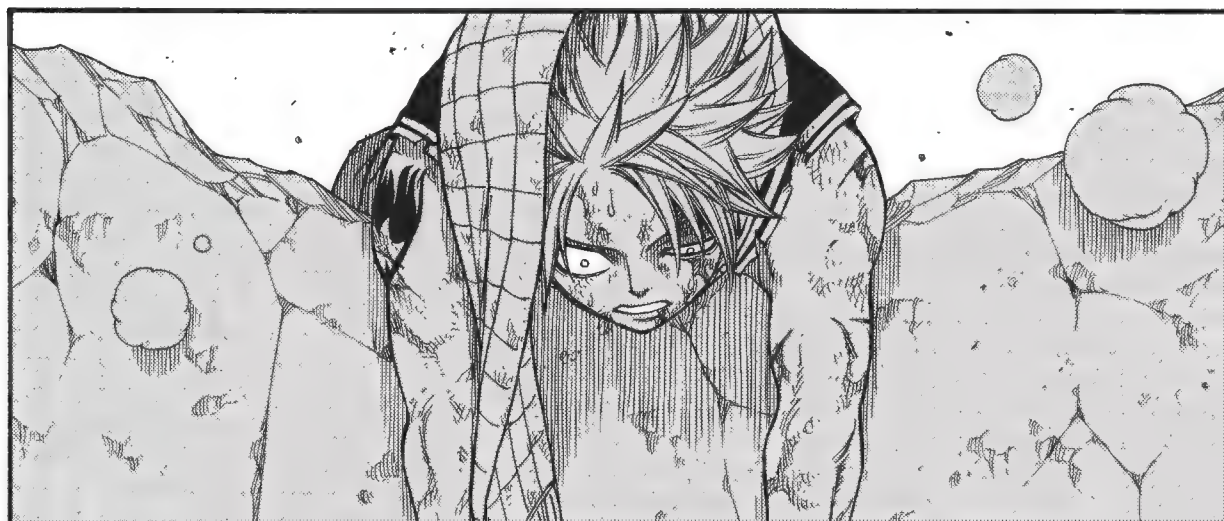
All
right!!!
You're
here!!!

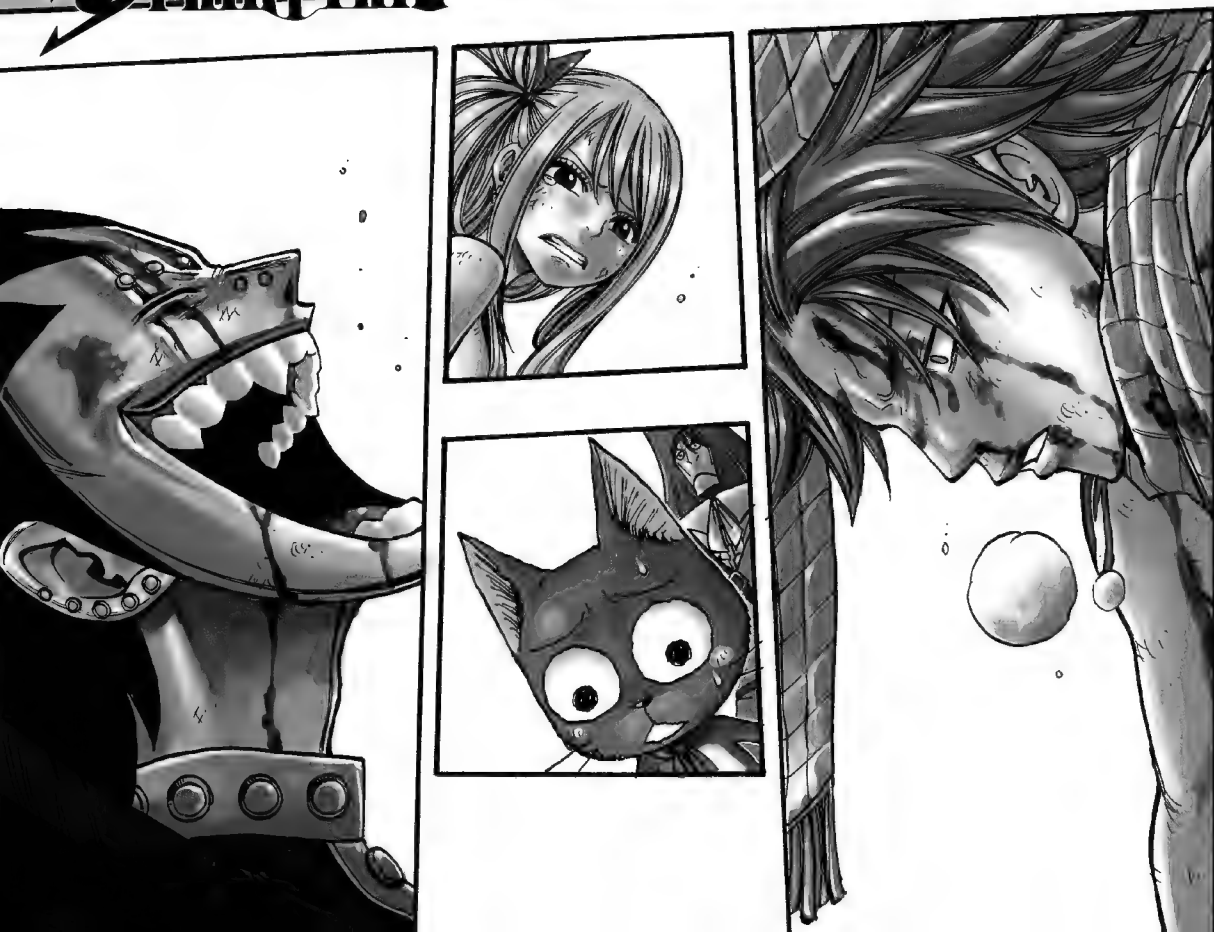










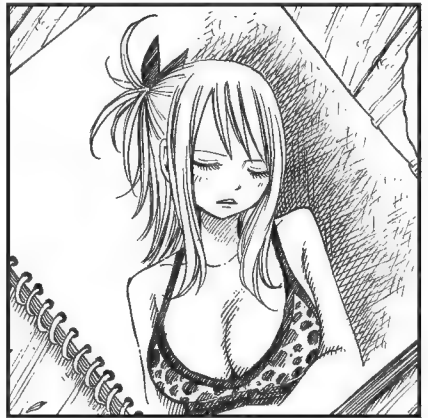


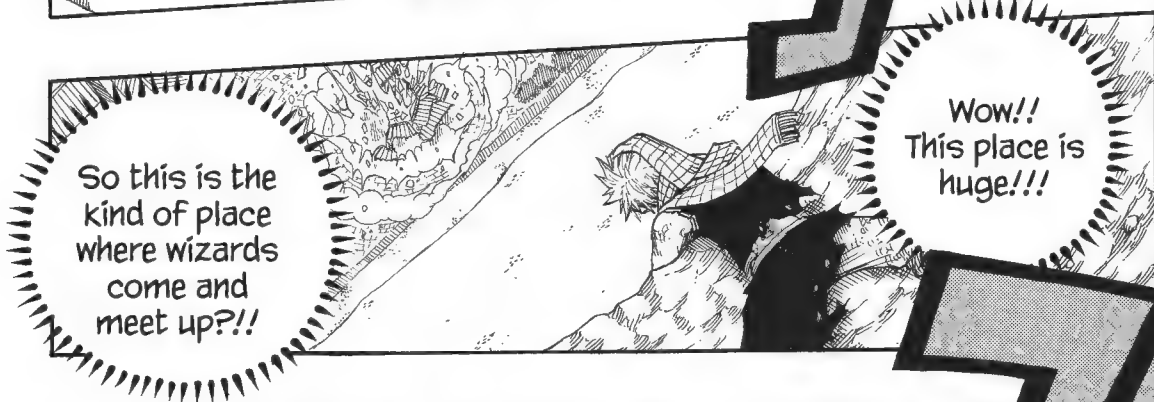
FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 63: Now We're Even

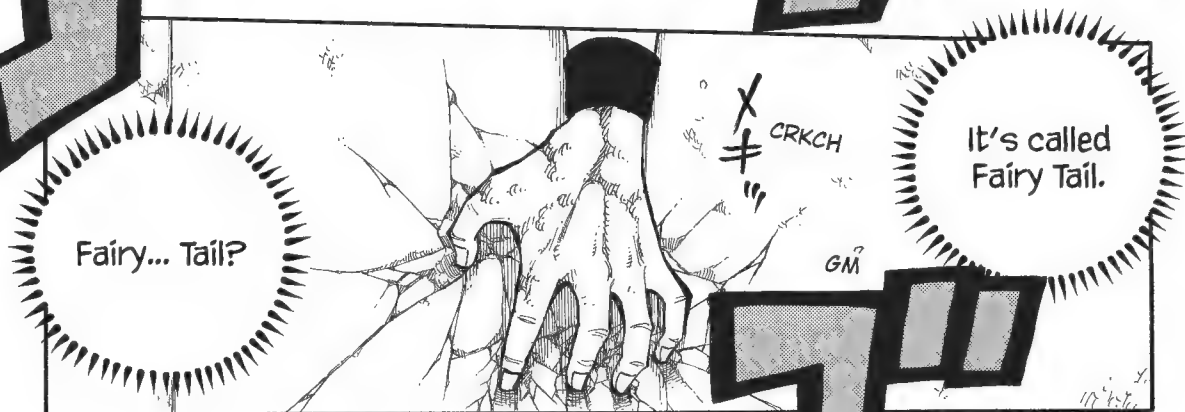
FAIRYTAIL





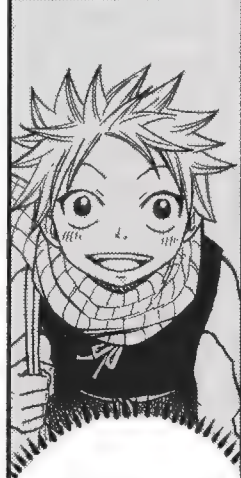
So this is the
kind of place
where wizards
come and
meet up?!!

Wow!!
This place is
huge!!!



Fairy... Tail?

It's called
Fairy Tail.

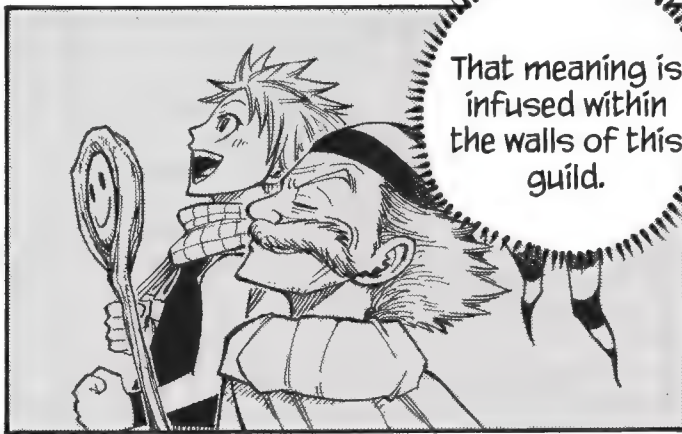
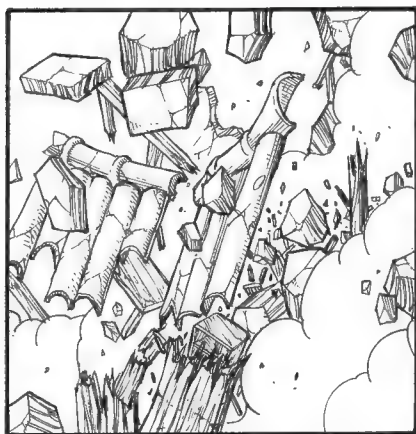


That's why it
will forever
be a mystery.
Forever be an
adventure.

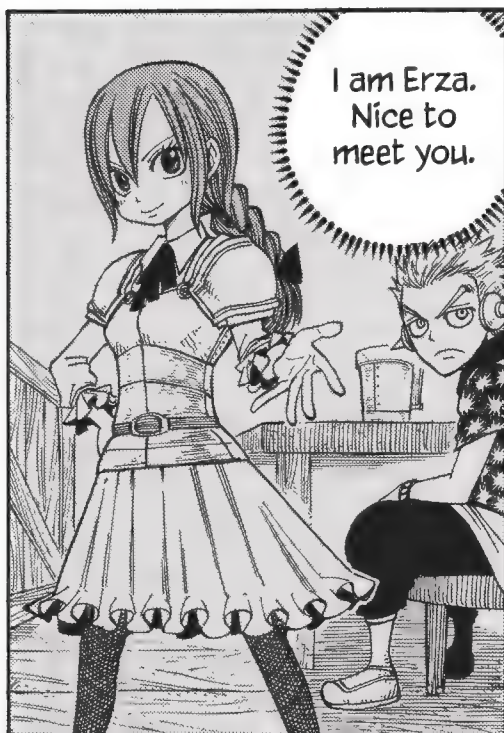


Nobody could
even tell you
if fairies ever
existed or not.

Nobody knows
if fairies have
tails or not.



That meaning is
infused within
the walls of this
guild.

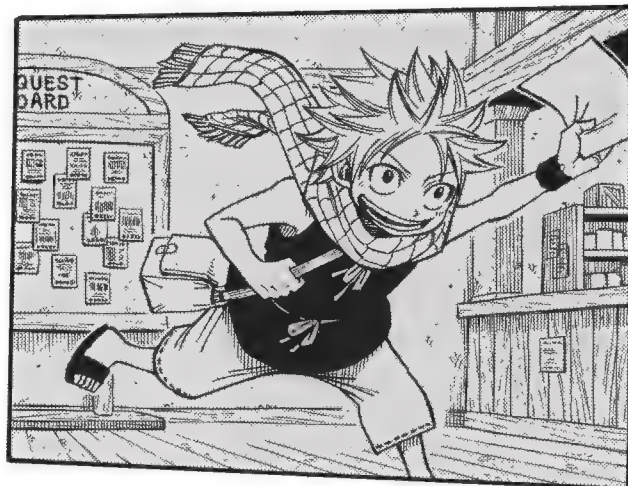
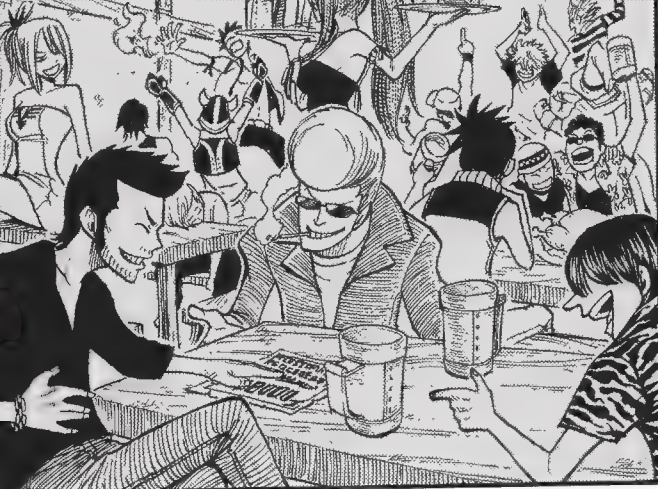


I am Erza.
Nice to
meet you.



Gray!!
Your
clothes!!!

Who do
you think
you are?!







If I just
turn
myself
over to
them...



You've...
done
enough,
Natsu...

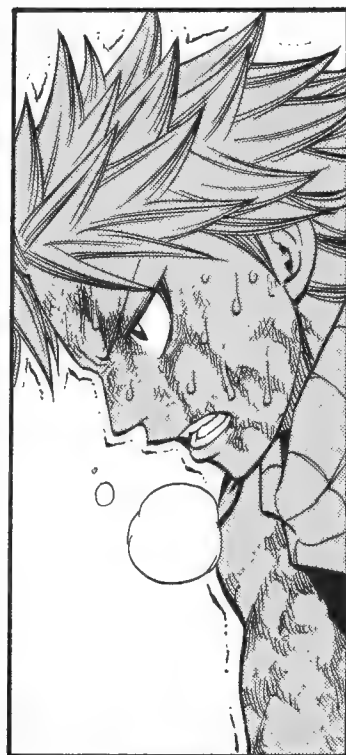


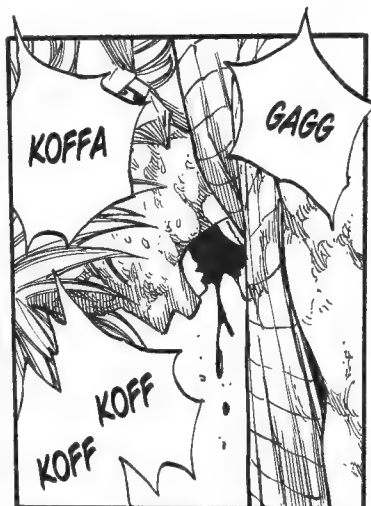
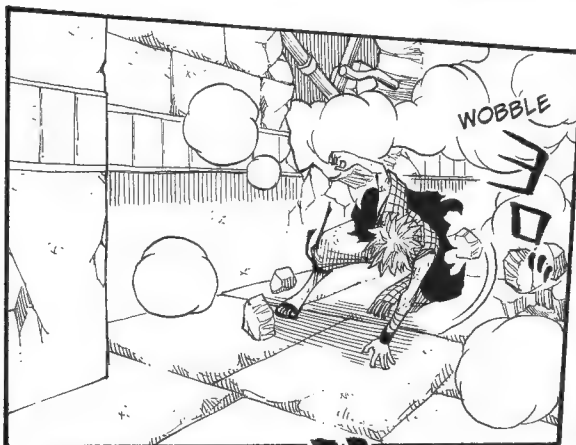
Natsu
hasn't
given up
yet.

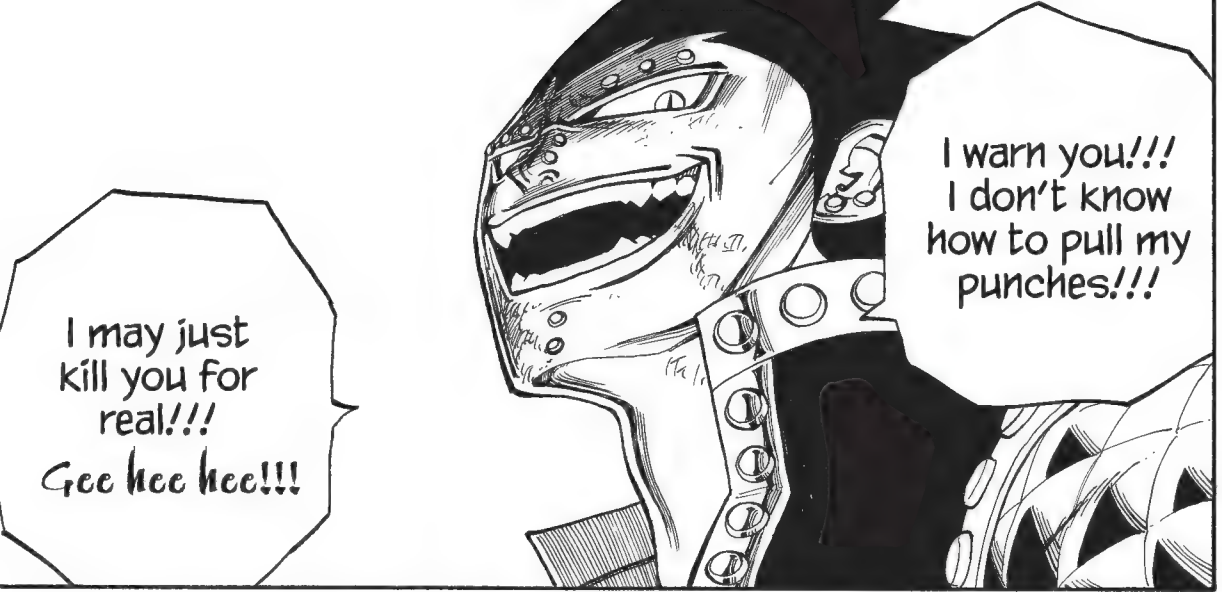


And you
lost.

Your
guild's in
ruins.

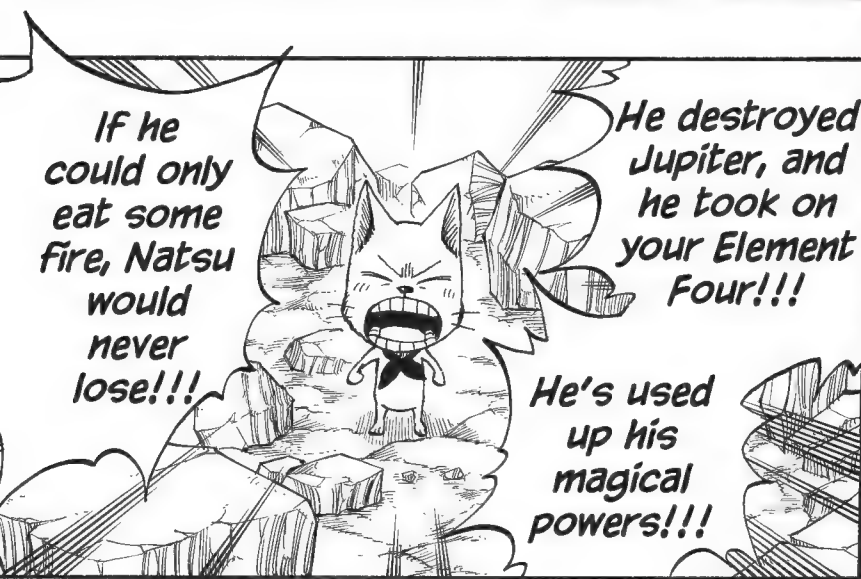






I may just
kill you for
real!!!
Gee hee hee!!!

I warn you!!!
I don't know
how to pull my
punches!!!



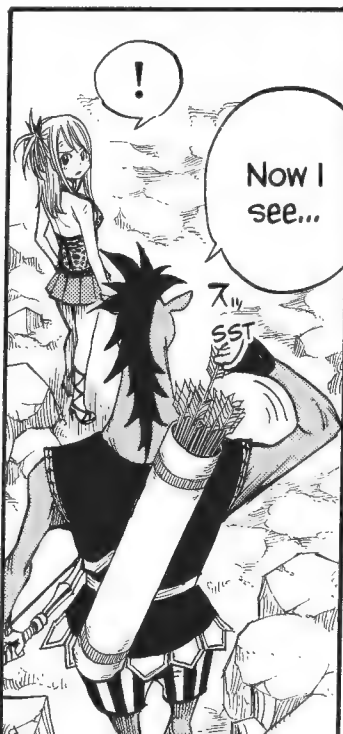
If he
could only
eat some
fire, Natsu
would
never
lose!!!

He destroyed
Jupiter, and
he took on
your Element
Four!!!

He's used
up his
magical
powers!!!

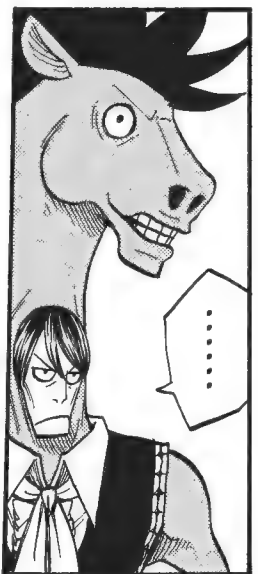


It seems we've
had a bit of a
miscommunication
between us.
Moshi-moshi.

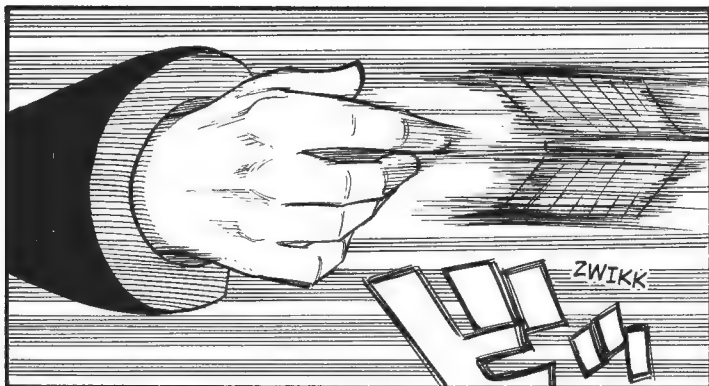


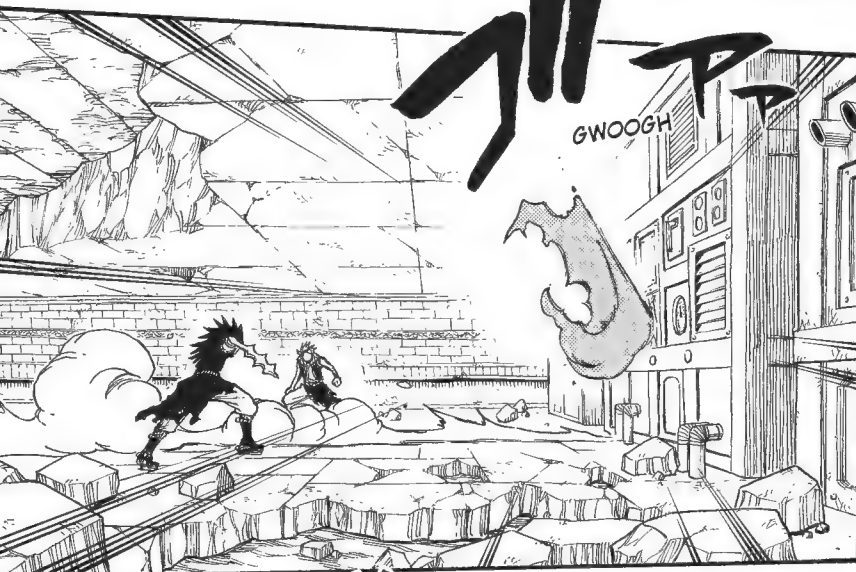
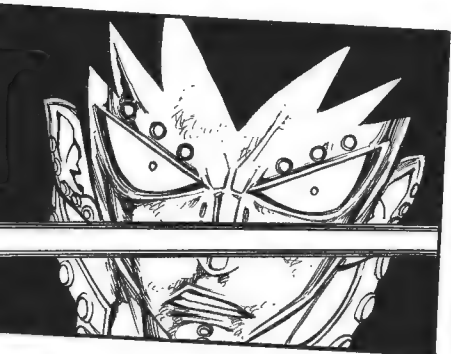
!

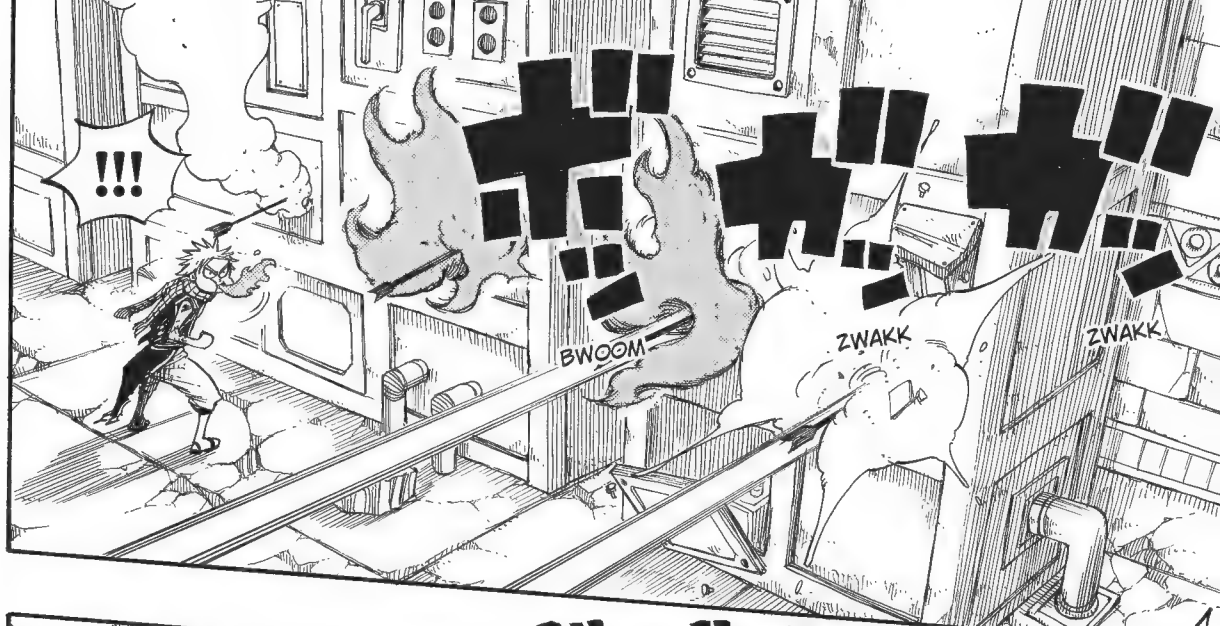
Now I
see...

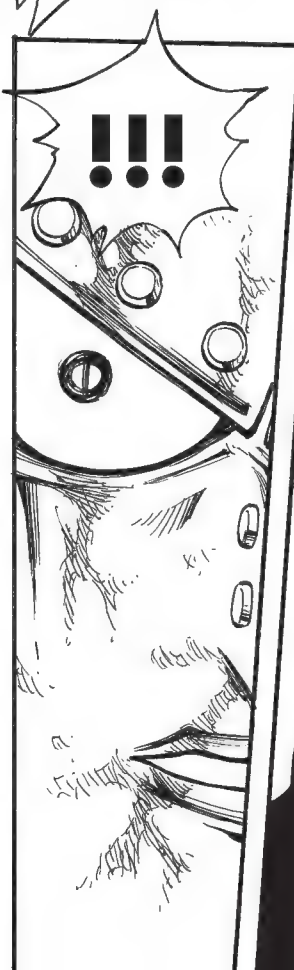
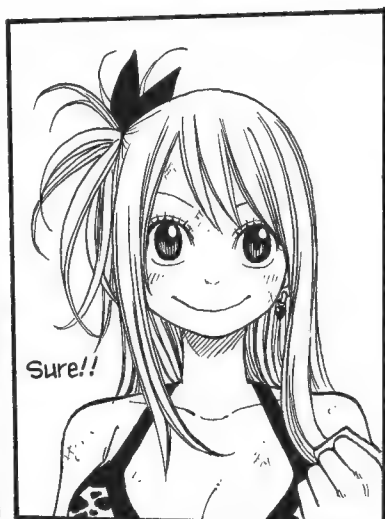


...







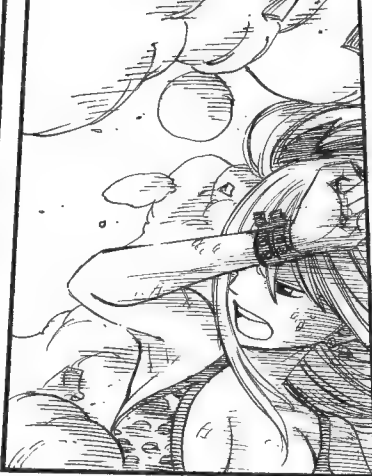








He...
he sent
it back
at me...
?!



*How many
people do
you have to
hurt before
you guys are
satisfied?!!!!*



**... little
piece of
trash!!!!**

**I can't
lose to
this...**

**Th-This
is
impos-
sible
!!!!**

**You made
your
biggest
mistake
when you
decided
to tangle
with Fairy
Tail!!!!**

**You've
done a
whole lot,
and I'm
going to
pay you
back for
all of
it right
now!!!!**

**... the
stron-
gest...**

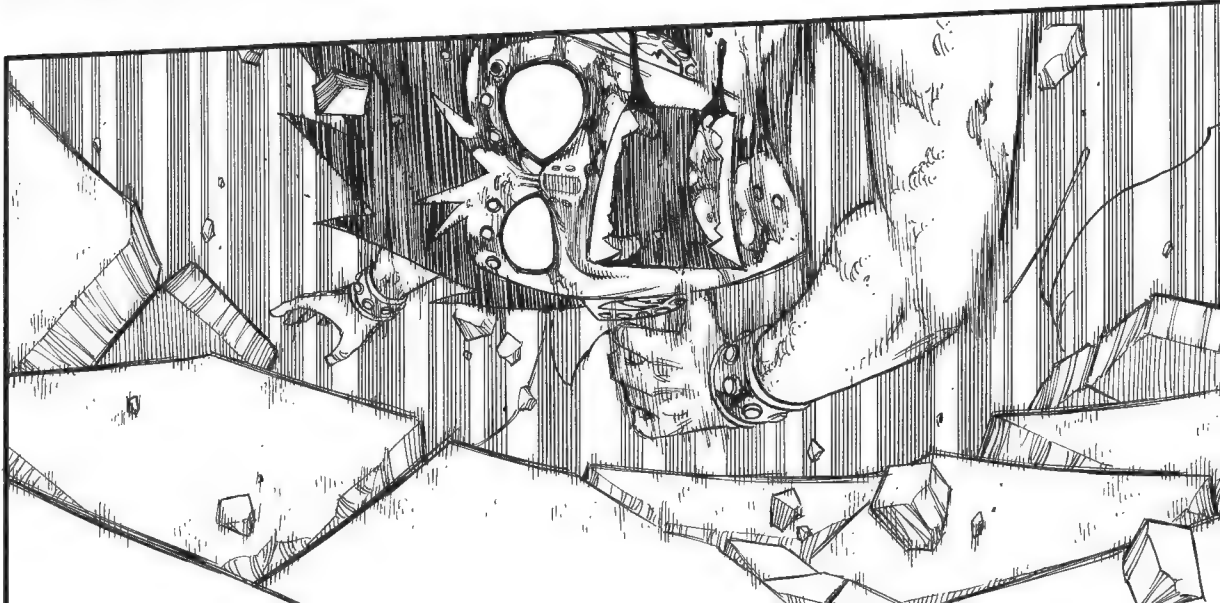
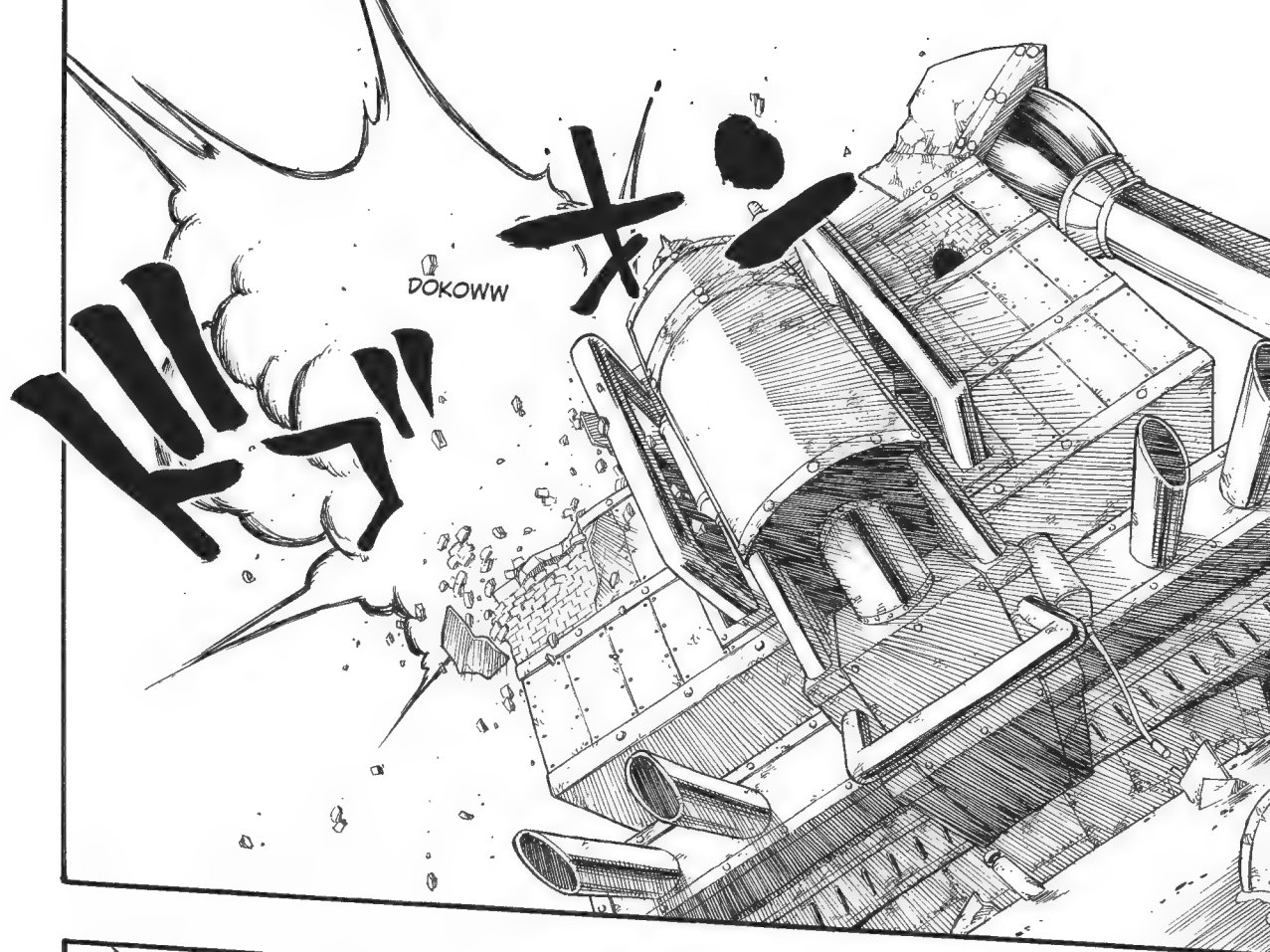
I am...

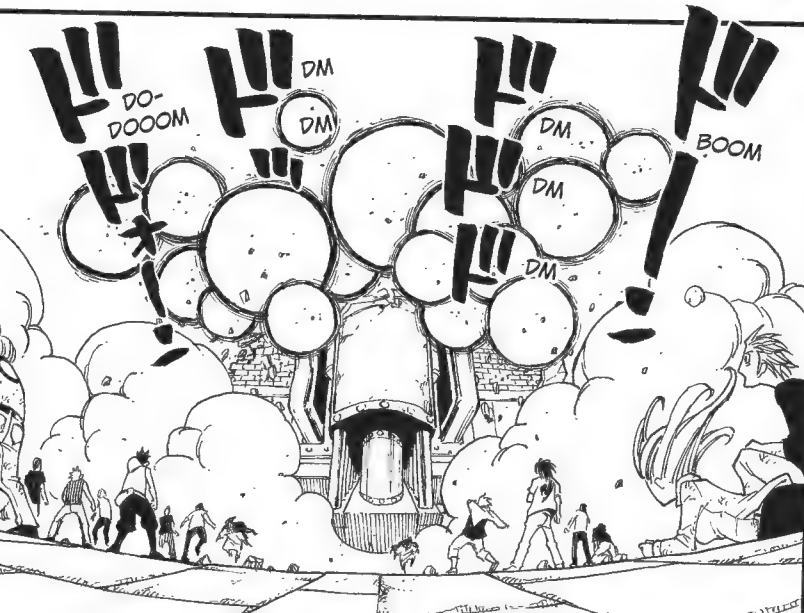


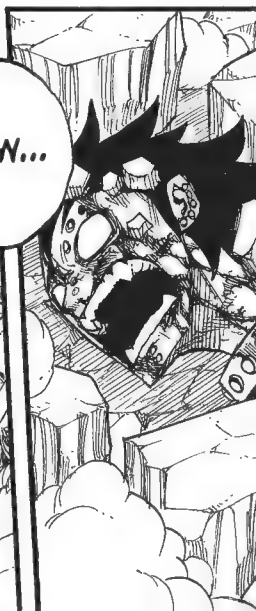
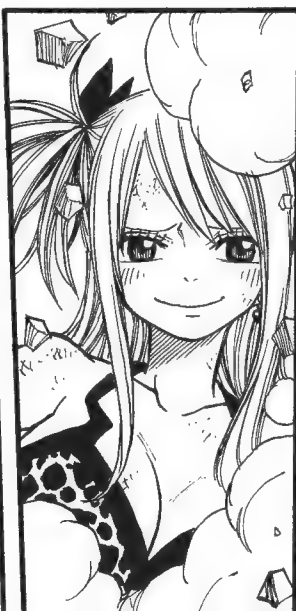
**Guren:
Karyû-
ken!!!!***

**Flame Lotus:
Fire Dragon Fist!!!!*

**Aaaa-
aaaaa
!!!**



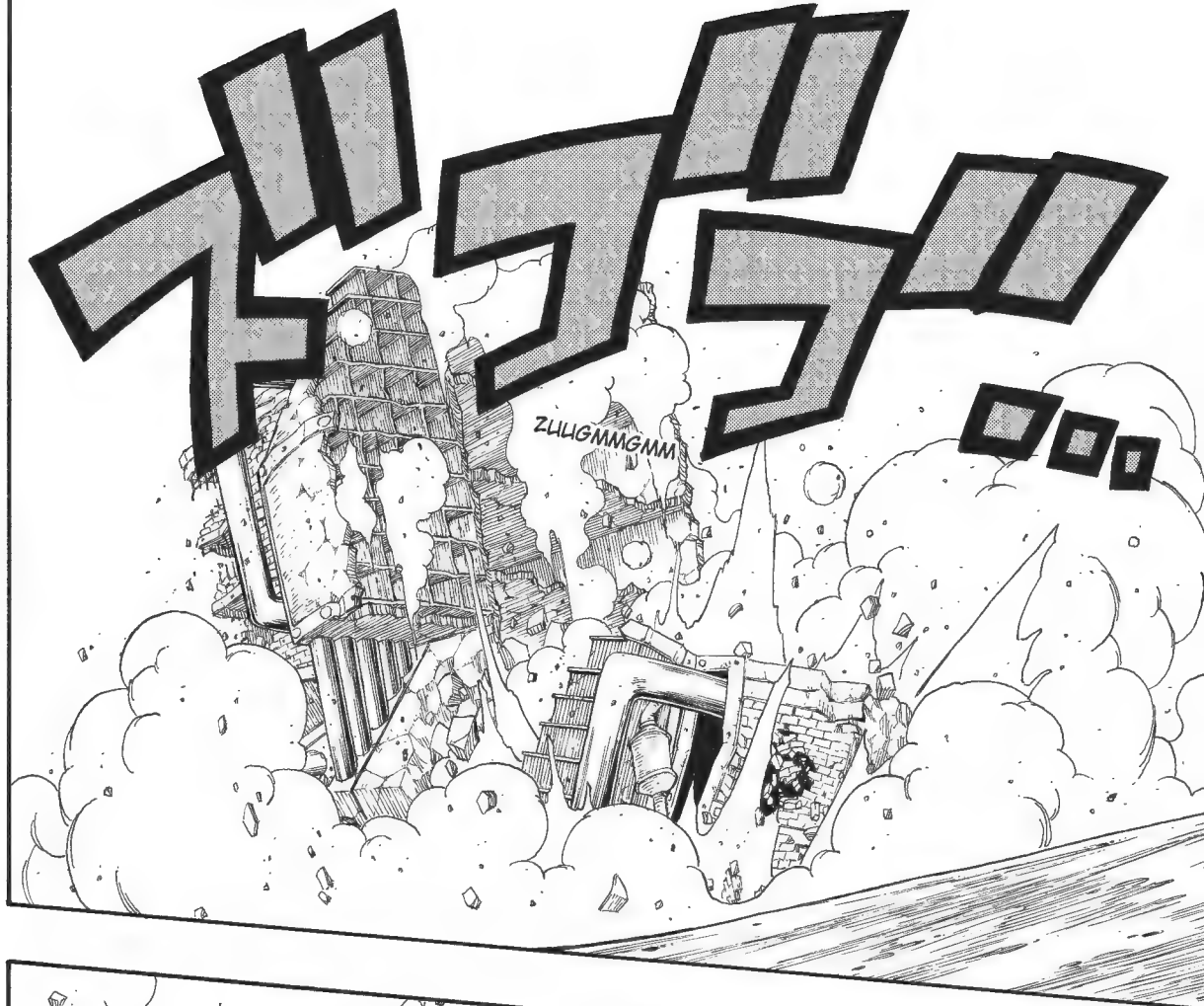


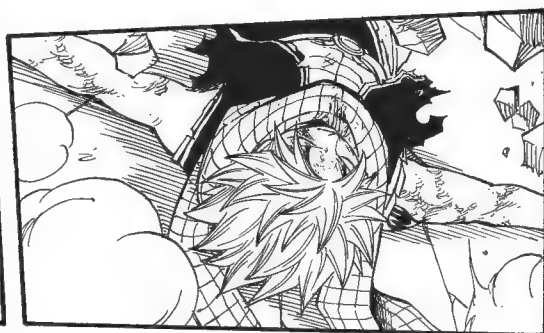


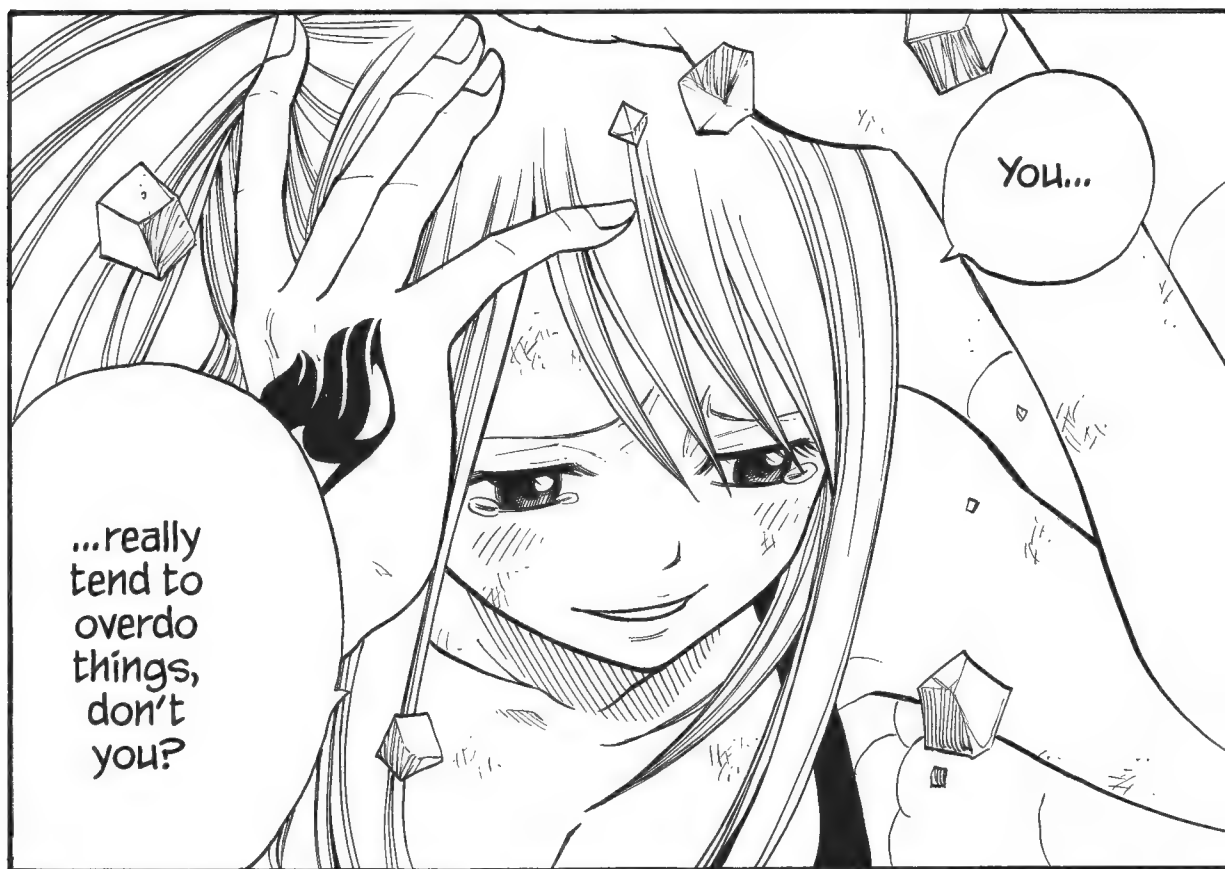
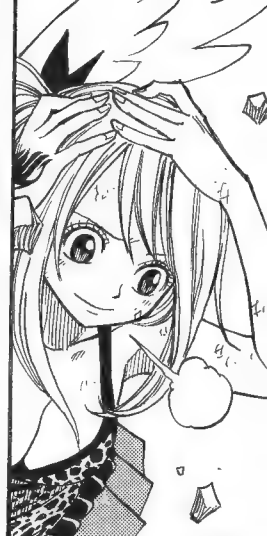
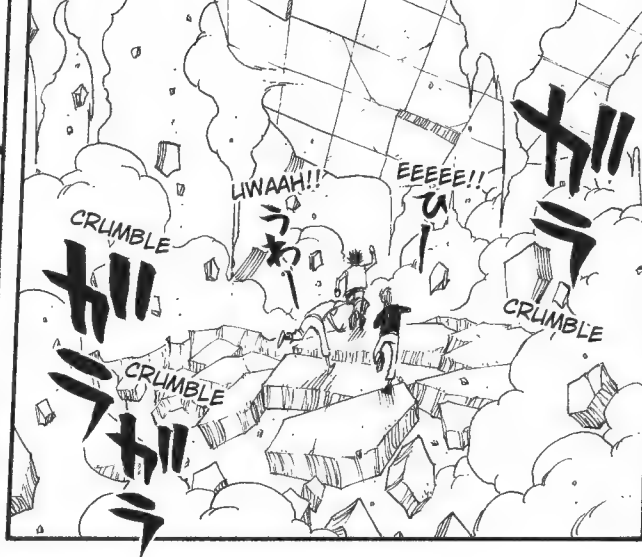
FAIRY TAIL

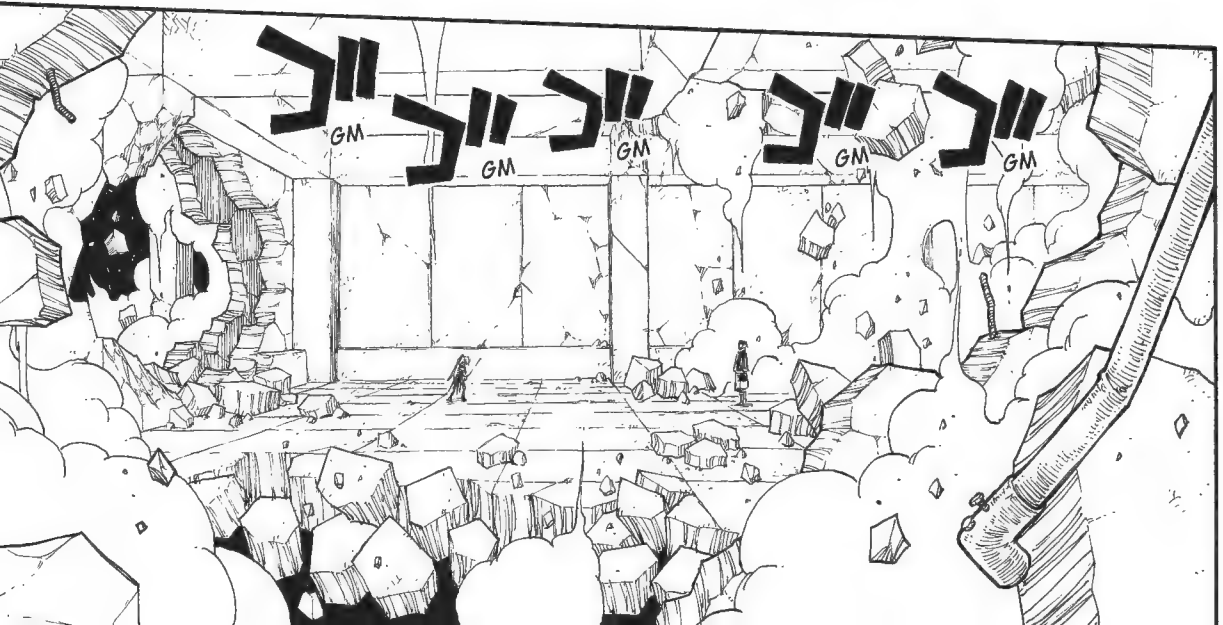
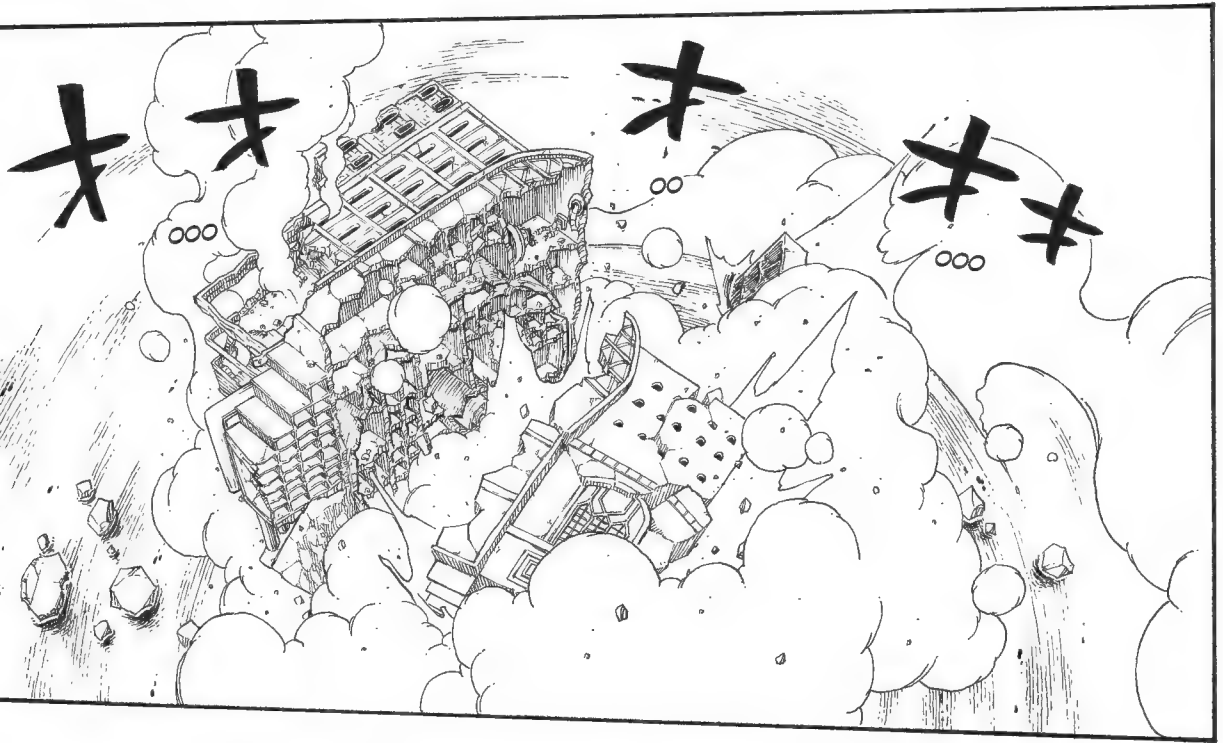
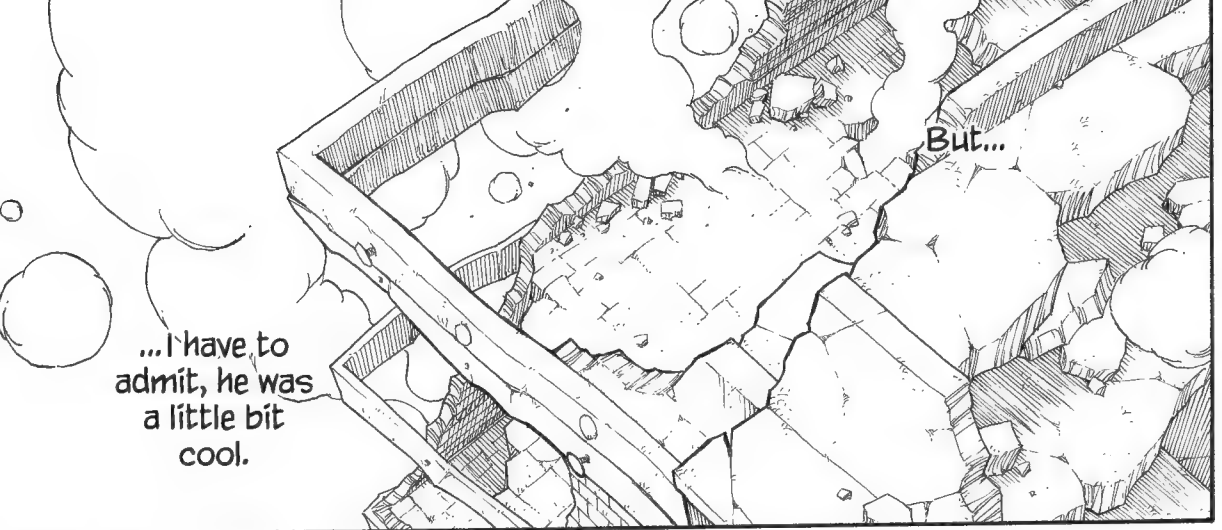
Chapter 64: The Best Guild







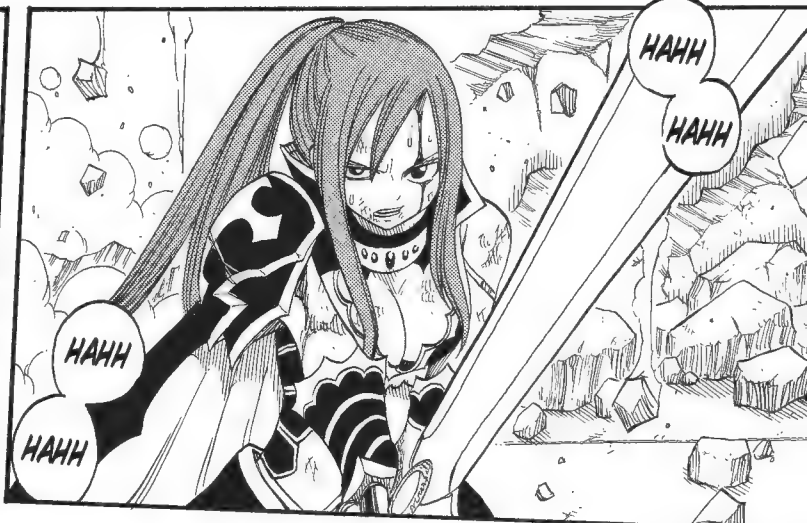
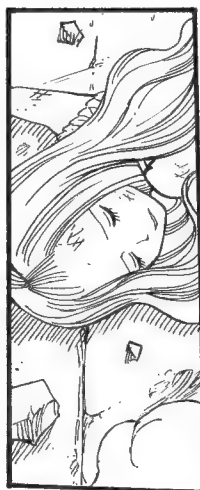






Those dragons can really go on a rampage.

Keh
heh...



HAHH

HAHH

HAHH

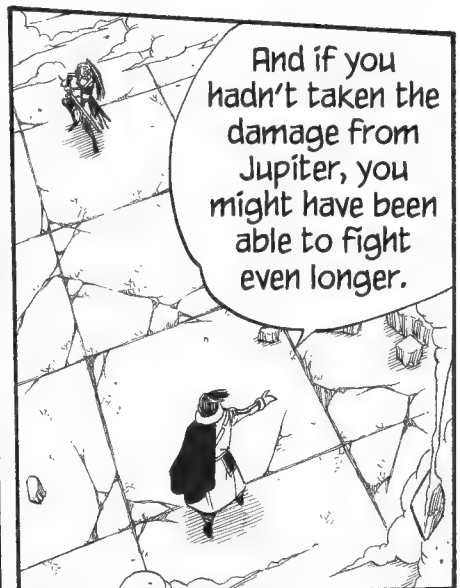
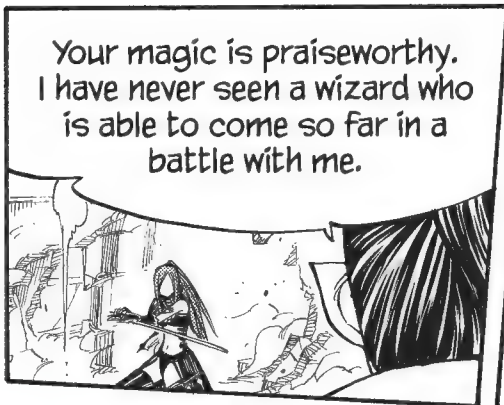
HAHH

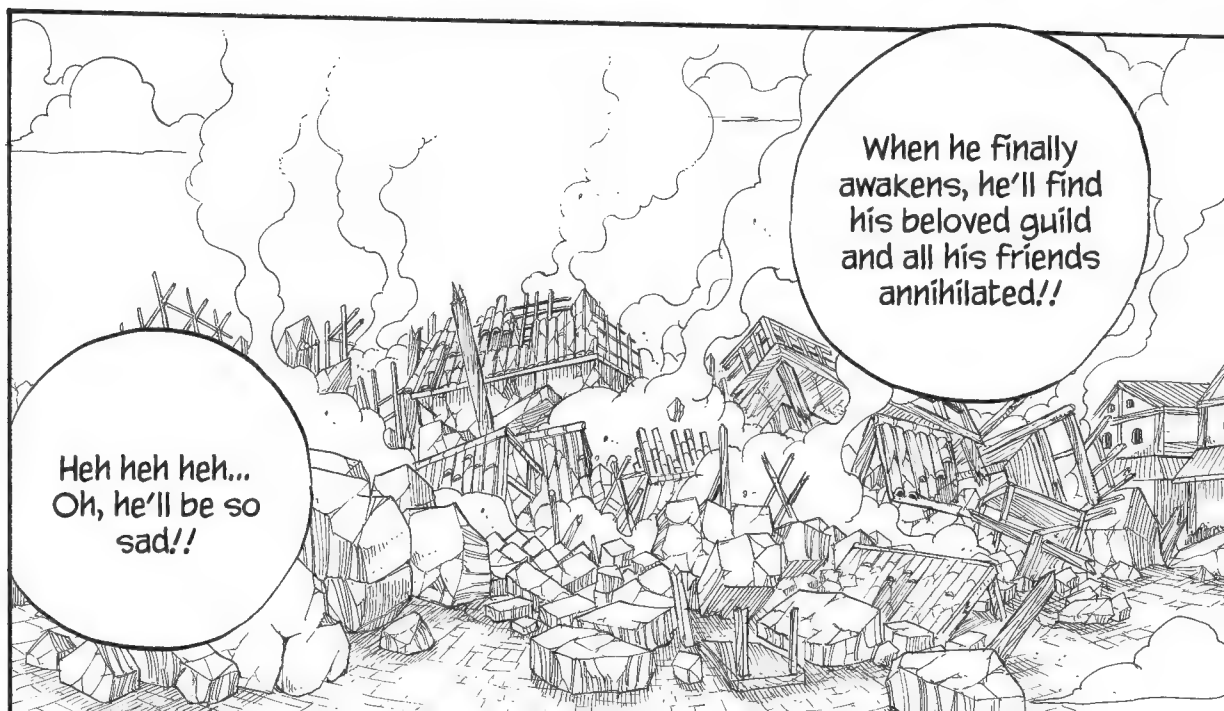



H-He's probably on a par with me. It's possible that he is even more powerful...

I see you weren't able to figure Natsu's battle strength into your calculations.

KRESH



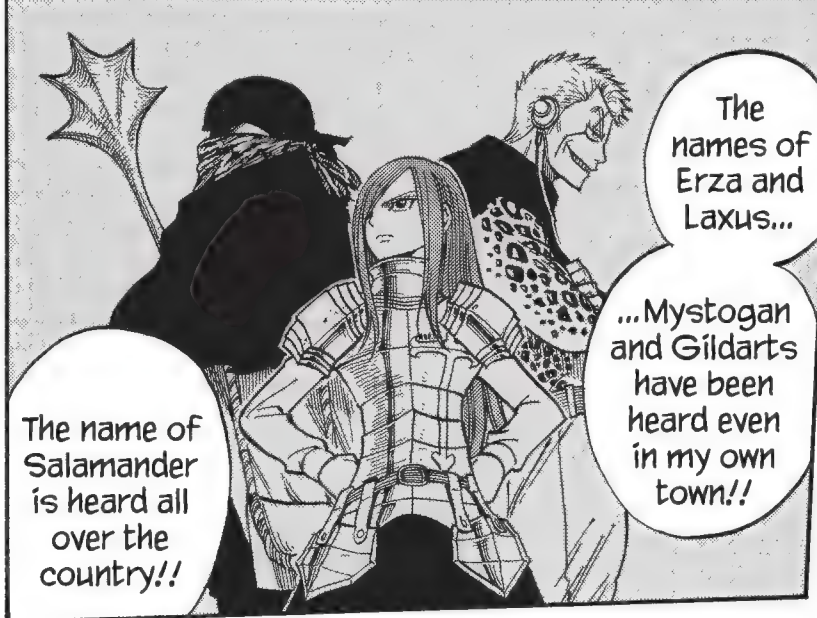




I refuse to give him a quick death!!!! I will make him suffer anguish and misery!!! When he has felt agony, only then will I kill him!!!!

Only after I have treated him to heart-rending despair will I kill him!!





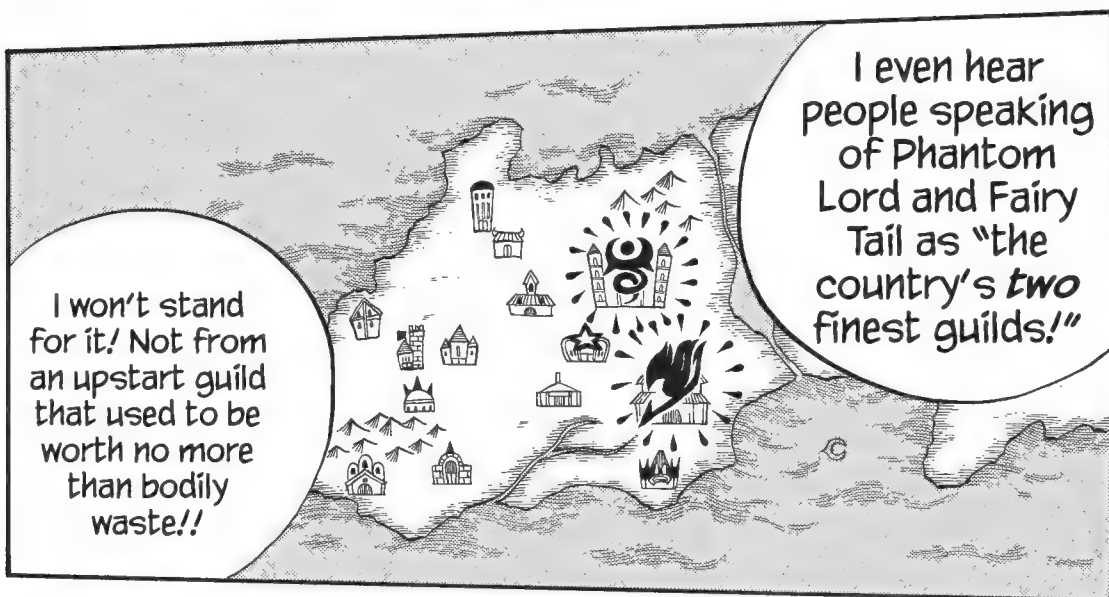
The name of Salamander is heard all over the country!!

The names of Erza and Laxus...

...Mystogan and Gildarts have been heard even in my own town!!



But these past few years, Fairy Tail has seen a sudden increase in strength!



I won't stand for it! Not from an upstart guild that used to be worth no more than bodily waste!!

I even hear people speaking of Phantom Lord and Fairy Tail as "the country's *two* finest guilds!"



What we're doing here is clarifying our superiority, once and for all!!

"Jealousy"?! Not even a little!!



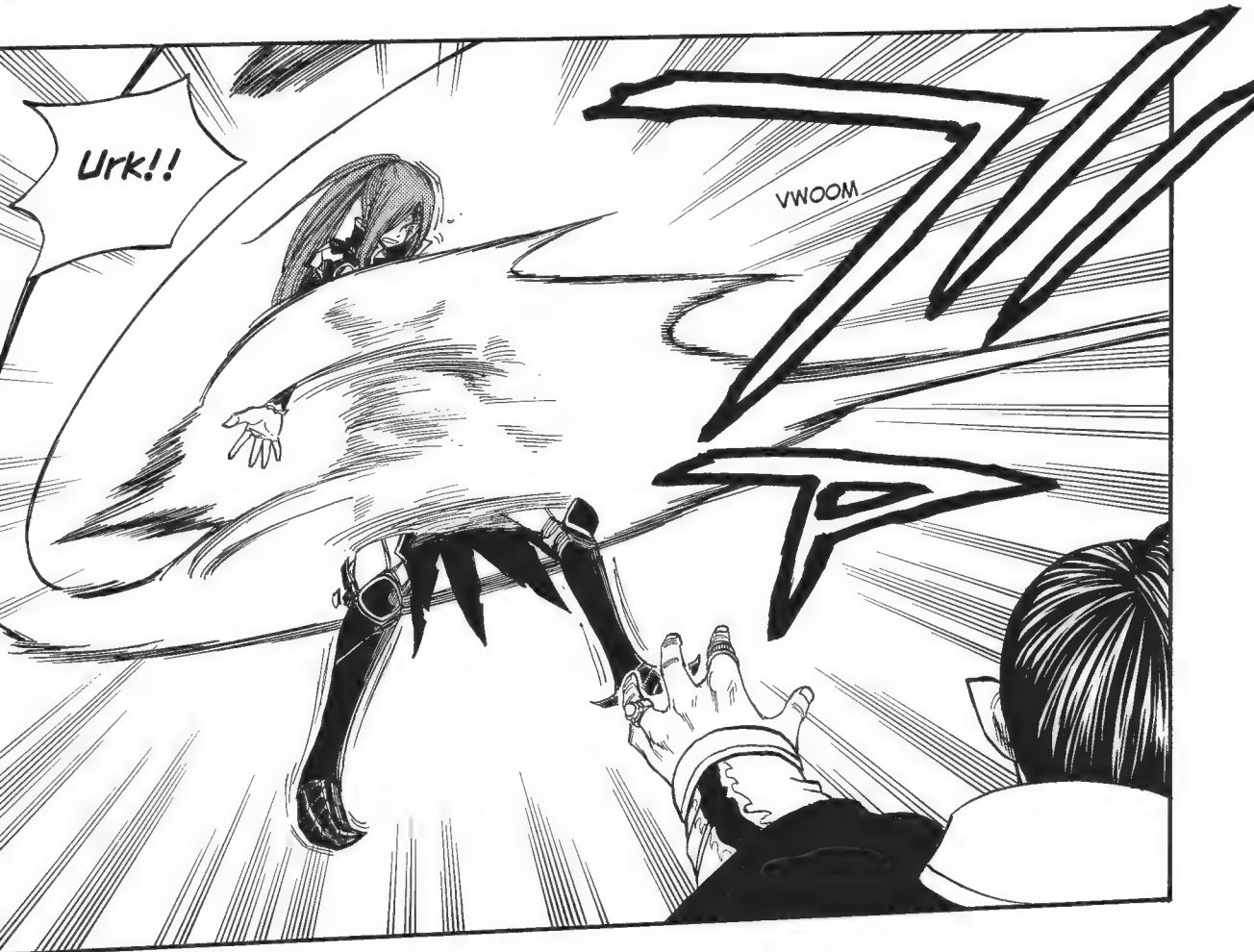
So this whole war is based on some stupid jealousy of yours?!



You mean
for that
trivial
reason...



You're
jok-
ing!!



Urk!!

VWOOM



So maybe
what triggered
the war was
something
small...

I could never
stand your
guild!!

How much power
do you intend to
suck up before
you've had
enough?!!!

I could hardly
believe it!!!
The daughter
of one of the
country's top
industrialists is
in Fairy Tail?!!

Urn...

Kh...

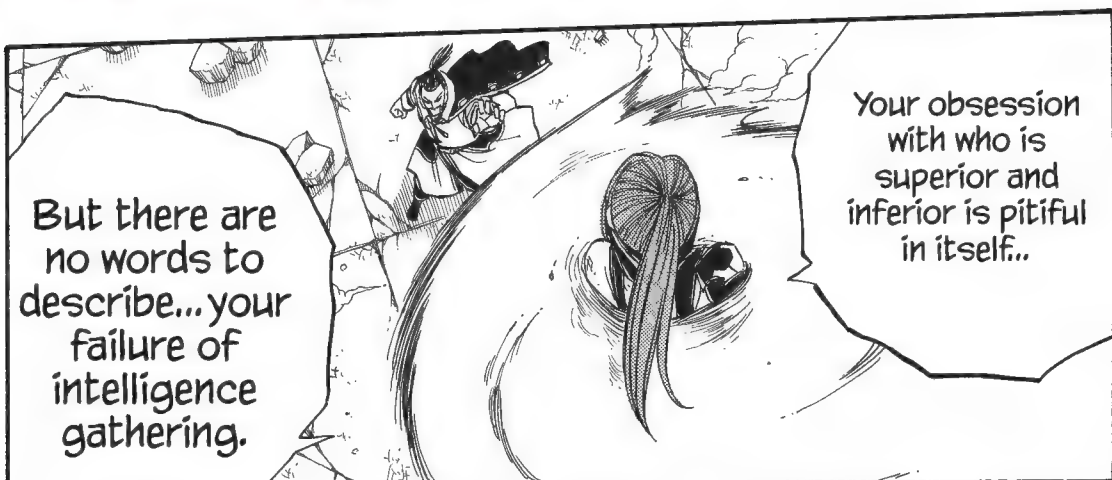
Small, such
as a request
to return the
daughter of
the Heartfilia
consortium to
her father.

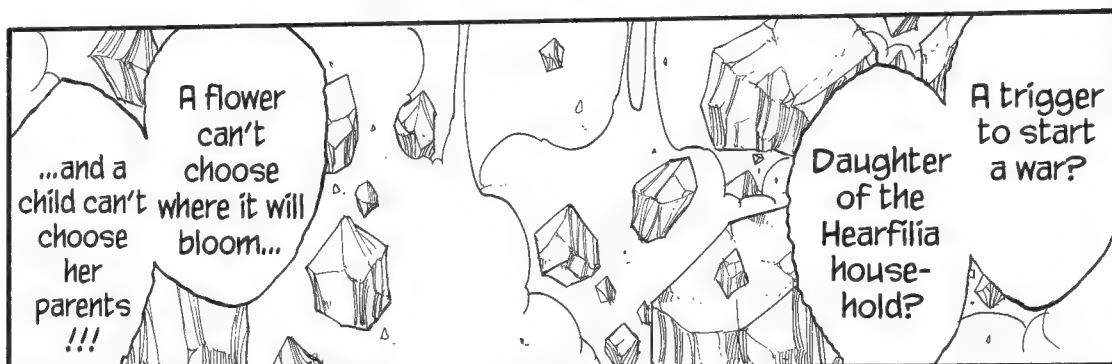
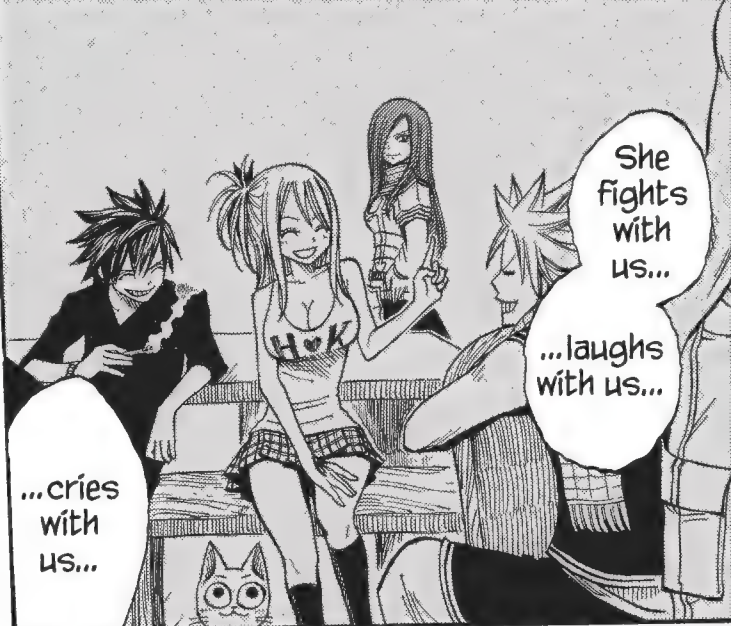
Lucy?!

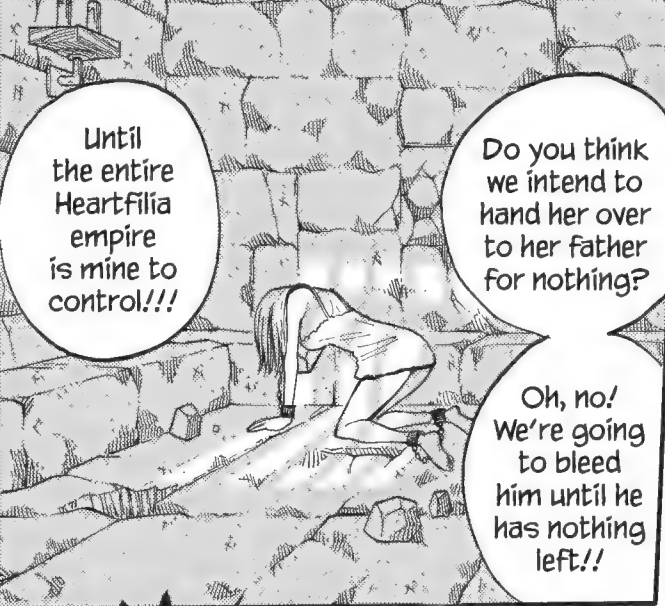
...then you'd
certainly have
great power at
your beck and
call!!!

If I were to allow
you to use the
Heartfilia money
unrestrained...

That is
something
I can never
allow!!!!







Until the entire Heartfilia empire is mine to control!!!

Do you think we intend to hand her over to her father for nothing?

Oh, no! We're going to bleed him until he has nothing left!!



Well, I'll soon find out, won't I?



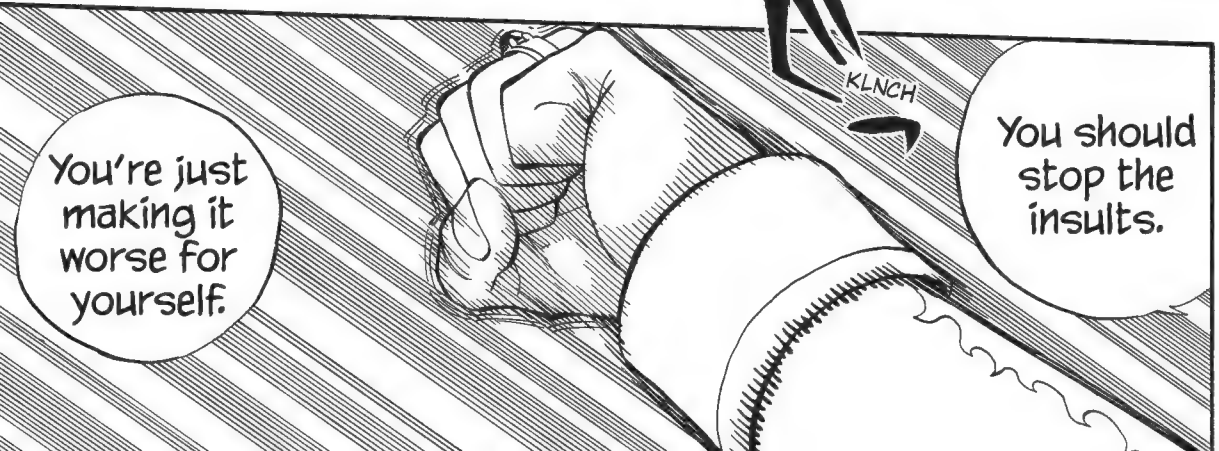
CHHT

CHHT

CHHT

CHHT

*You dirty—
Aaaaa
!!!!*



KLNCH

You're just making it worse for yourself.

You should stop the insults.





Master...

*It must be
stopped!!!!*





*You're out
to cause
a natural
disaster?!!*

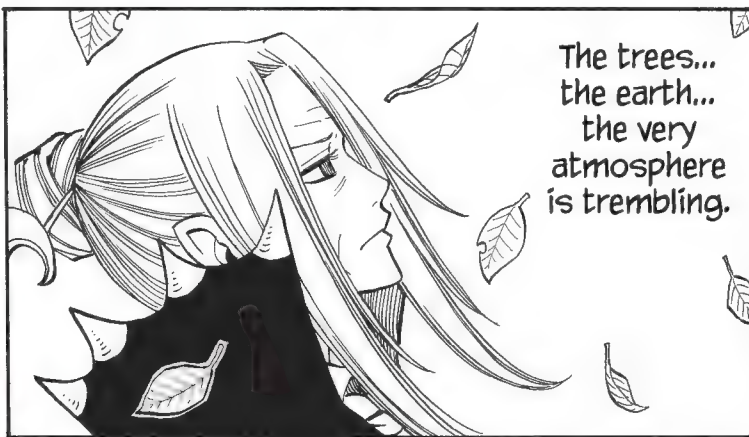
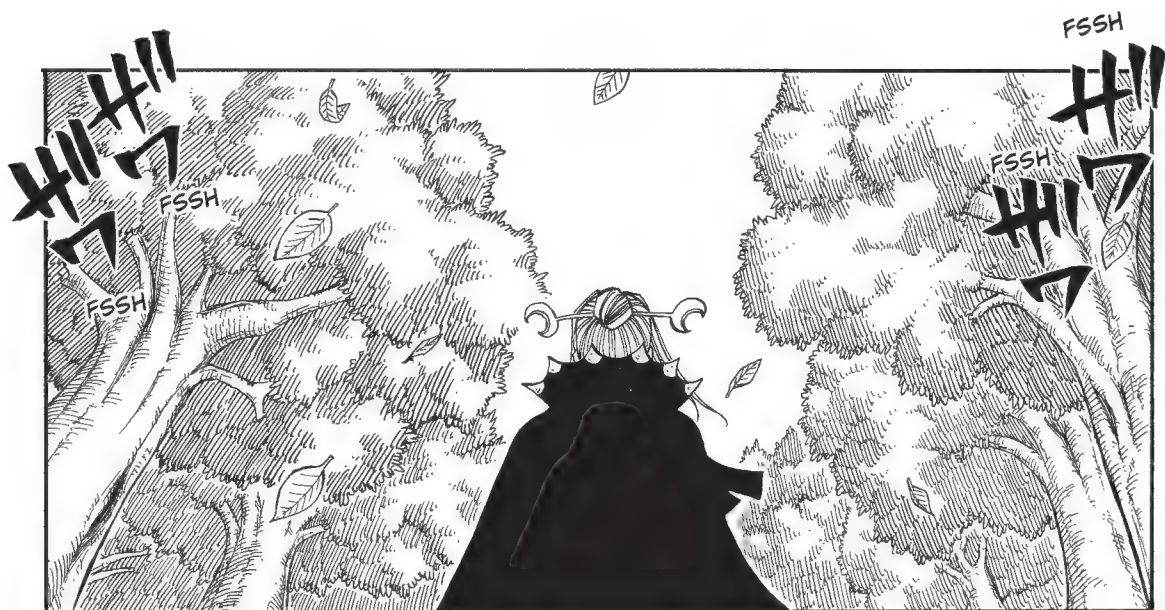


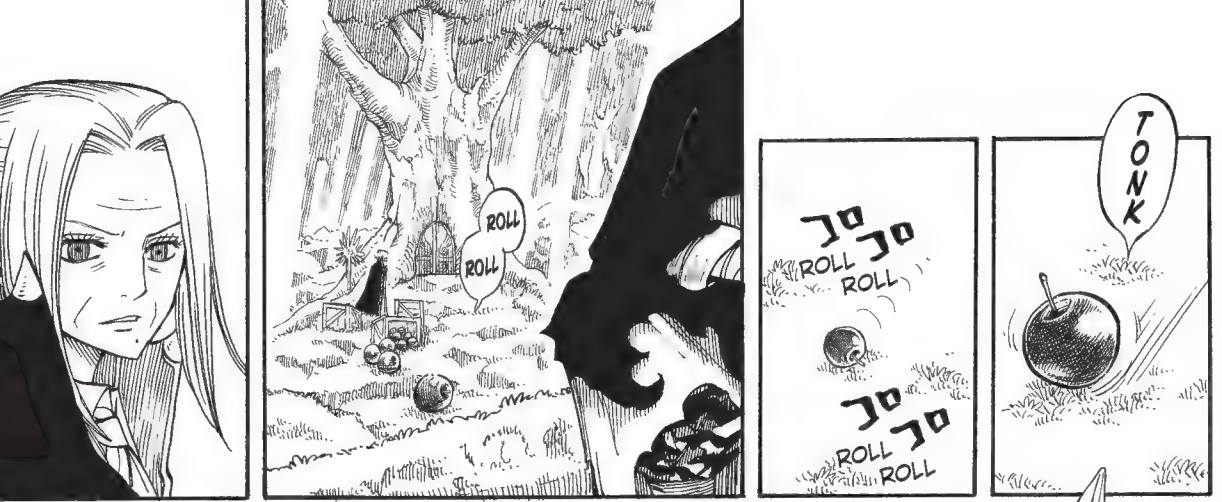
*If it's for
the sake of
my family,
then yes!!!*

FAIRY TAIL



Chapter 65: Fairy Law







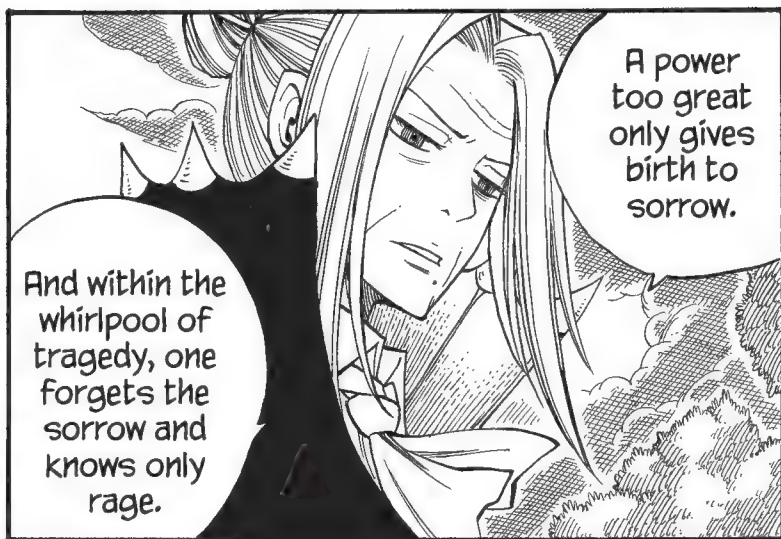


I give up
on you
people!!



You'd better
not be thinking
of leaving me
with your used
apple cores!!!
Got it?!!

I want
another
apple.



And within the
whirlpool of
tragedy, one
forgets the
sorrow and
knows only
rage.

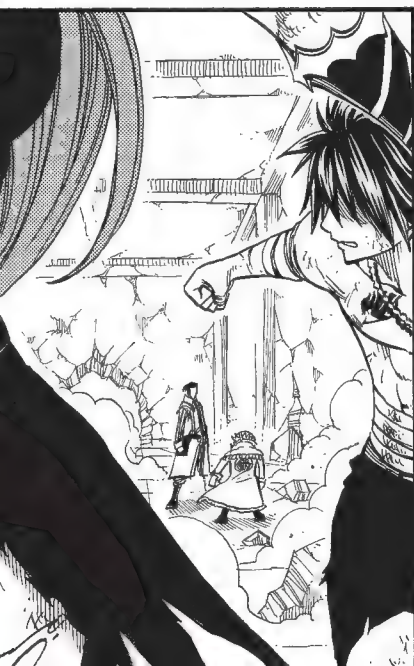
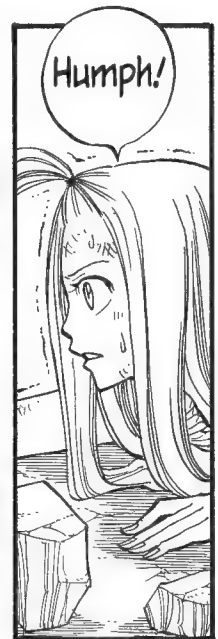
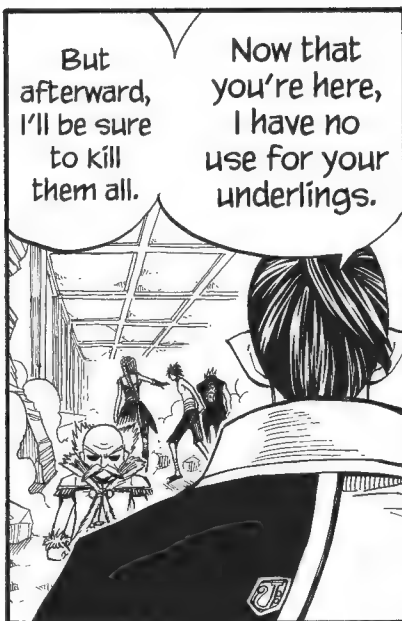
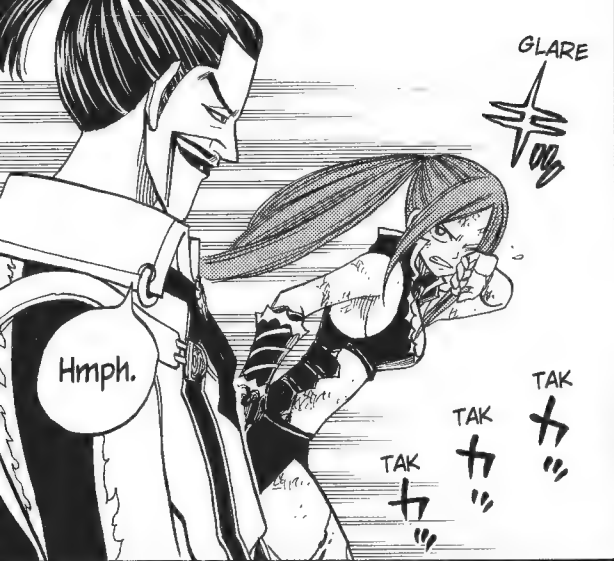
A power
too great
only gives
birth to
sorrow.

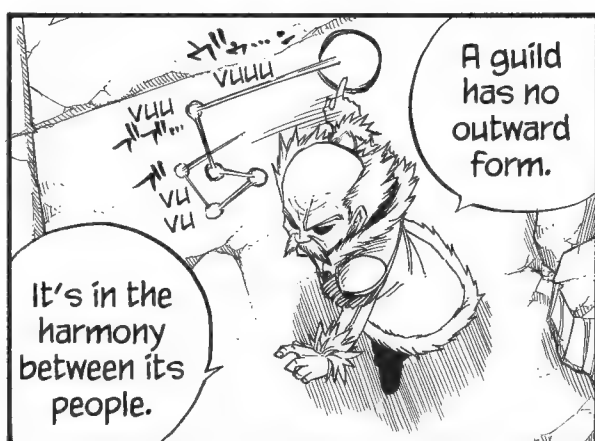
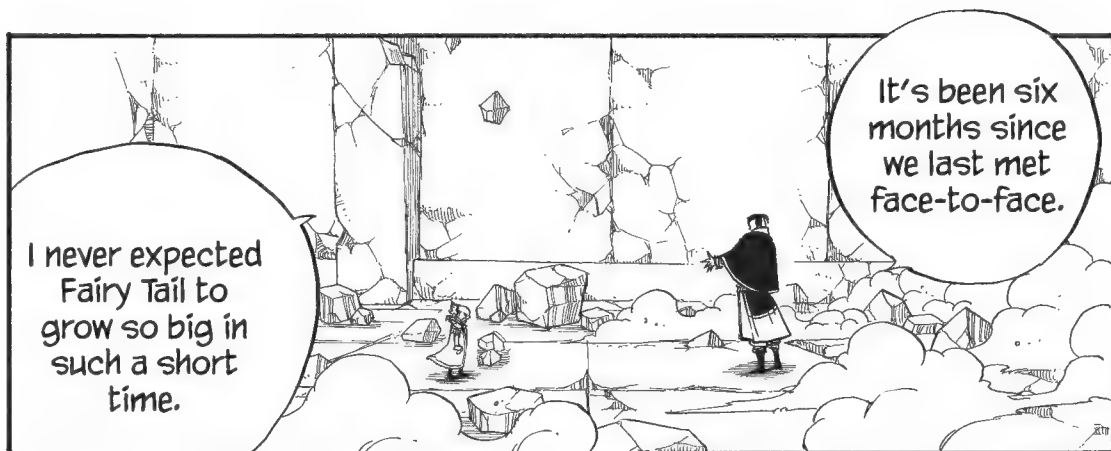


The
sacred
light that
guides
us all.

I would like to
believe in the
sacred light that
can envelope both
sorrow and rage.







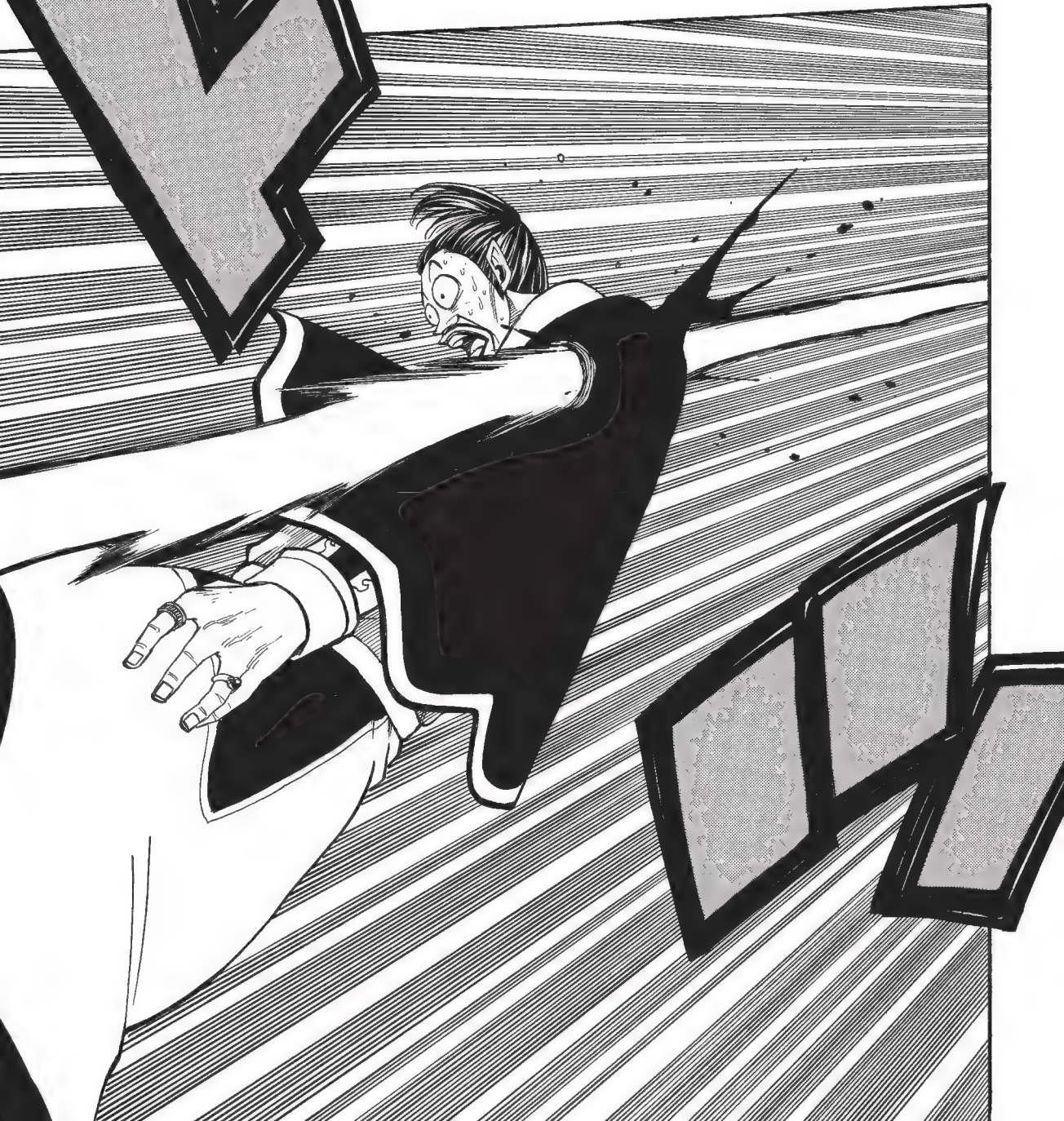


*Take
pride in
the fact
that you
are Fairy
Tail!!!!*





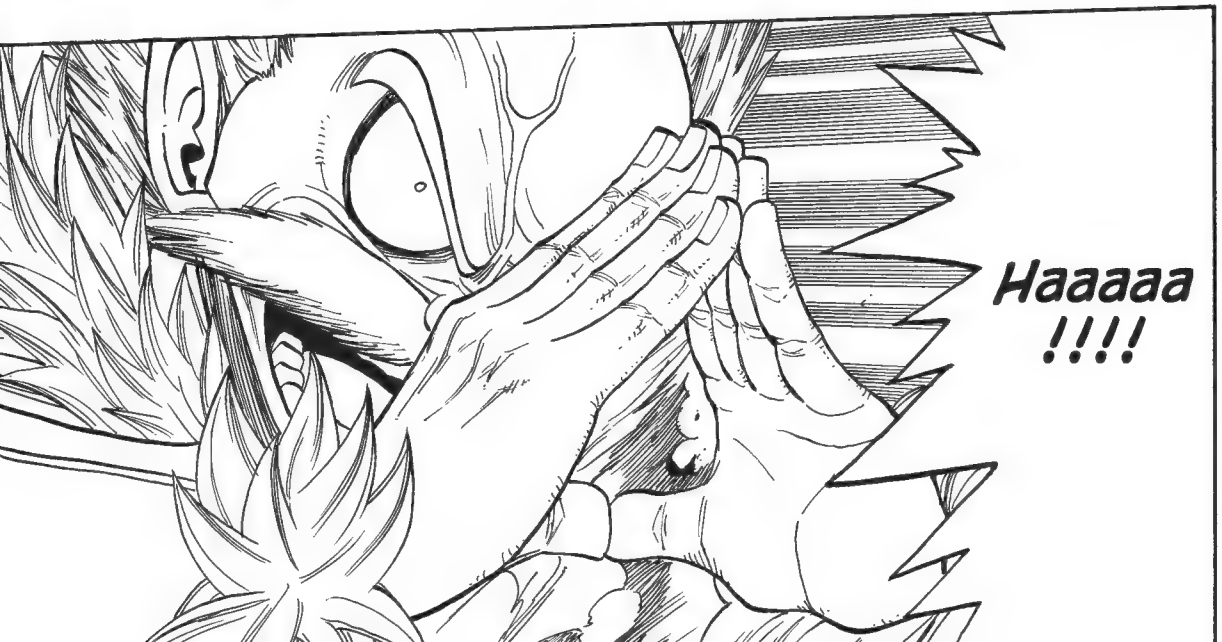
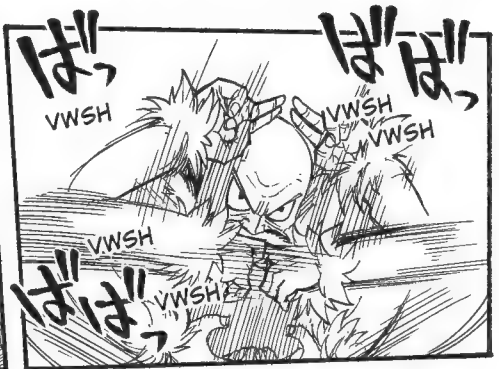
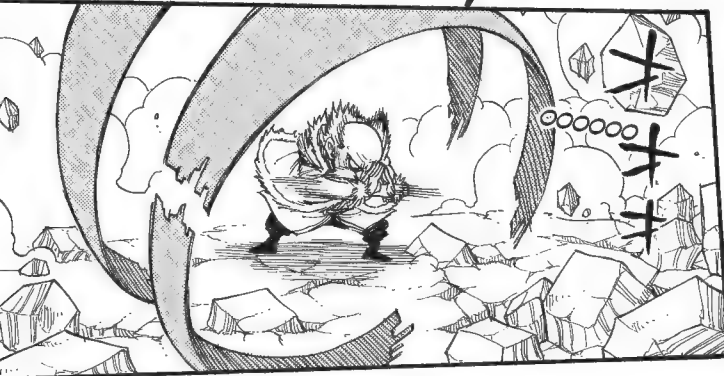
DM0000

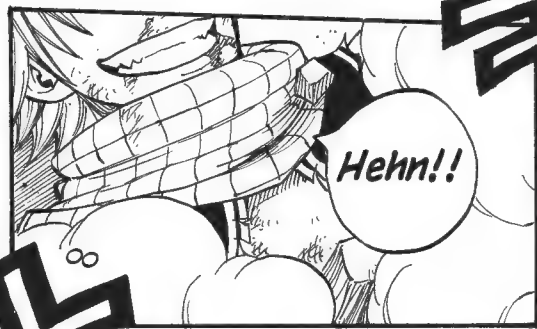


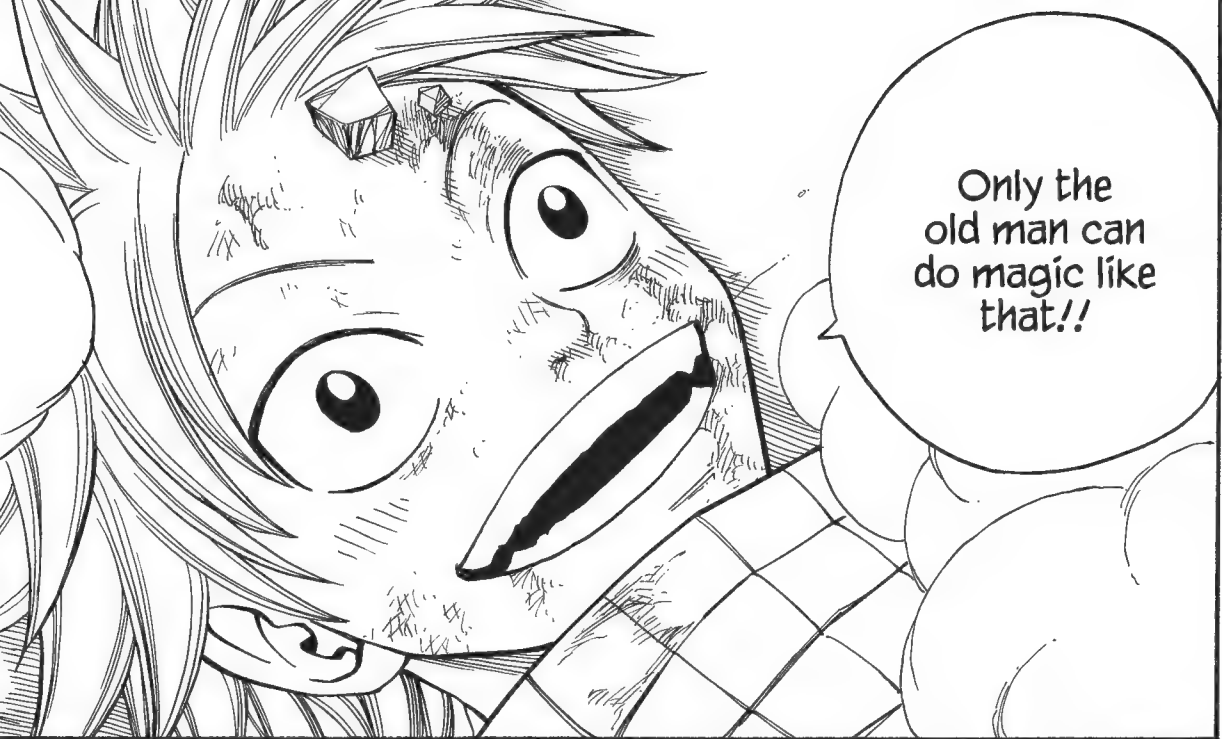




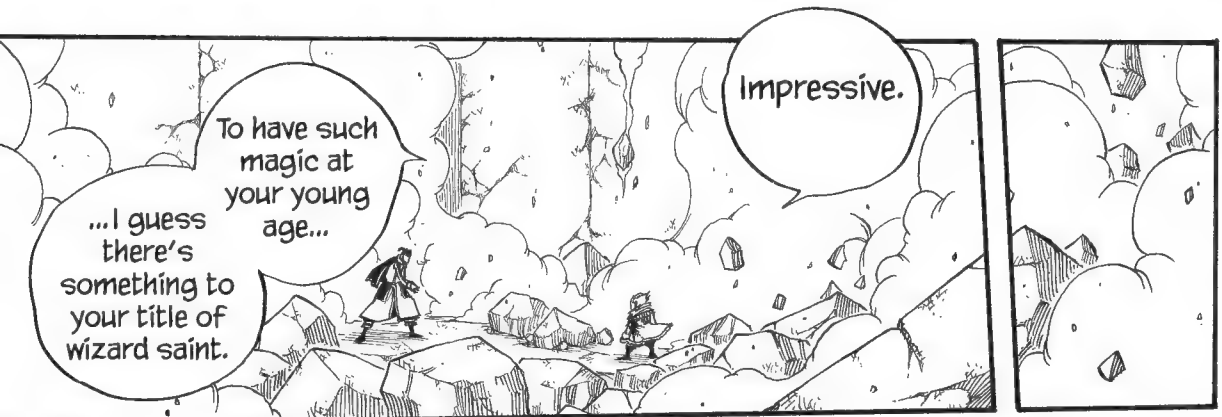
**Dead
Wave!!!**







Only the
old man can
do magic like
that!!



...I guess
there's
something to
your title of
wizard saint.

To have such
magic at
your young
age...

Impressive.

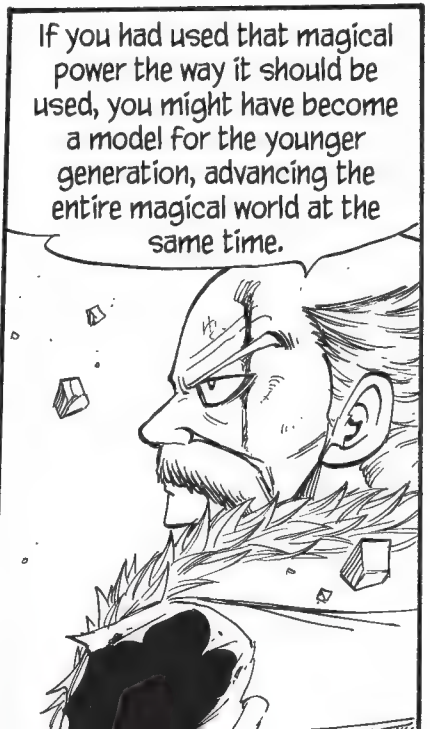


...I'm
supposed to
give you to
the count of
three.

According
to the Fairy
Tail rules...



What is
this? A
lecture?



If you had used that magical
power the way it should be
used, you might have become
a model for the younger
generation, advancing the
entire magical world at the
same time.



No!! I have less scruples than you, so I am stronger!!

You're demanding that the leader of the greatest guild in the country grovel before you?!! Don't make me laugh!!! You and I are evenly matched!!!

Two...

Ha ha...

I wondered what you were going to demand. But that I get on my knees?!

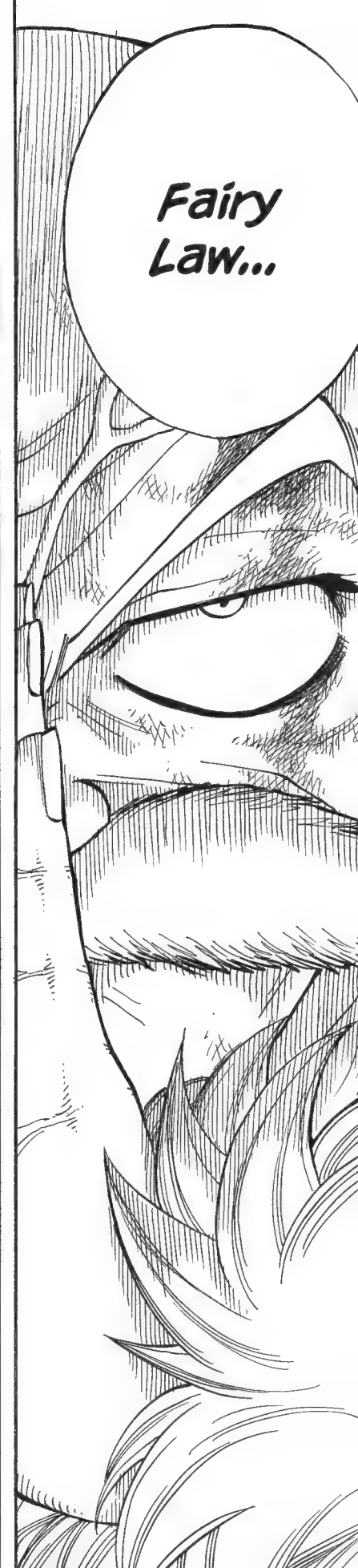
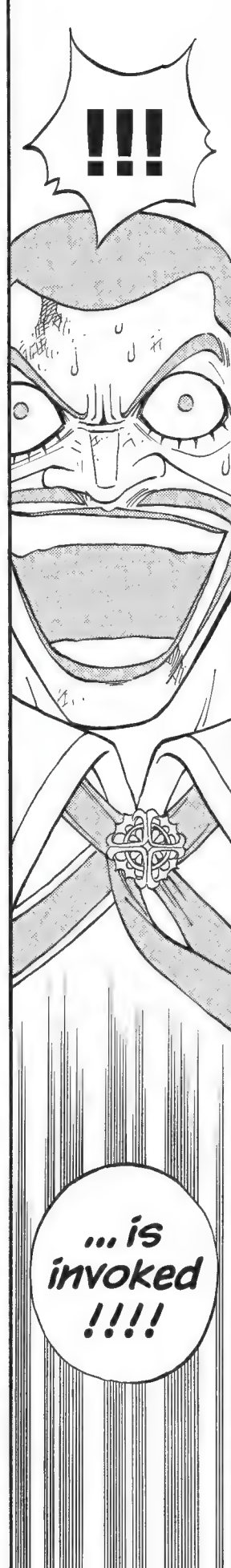
Three!!!

You're the one who should be on his knees!!!! Go off and die!!!!
Crumble to dust and vanish completely from the history books, Fairy Tail!!!!

CLAP
H h
I'm through waiting!!!



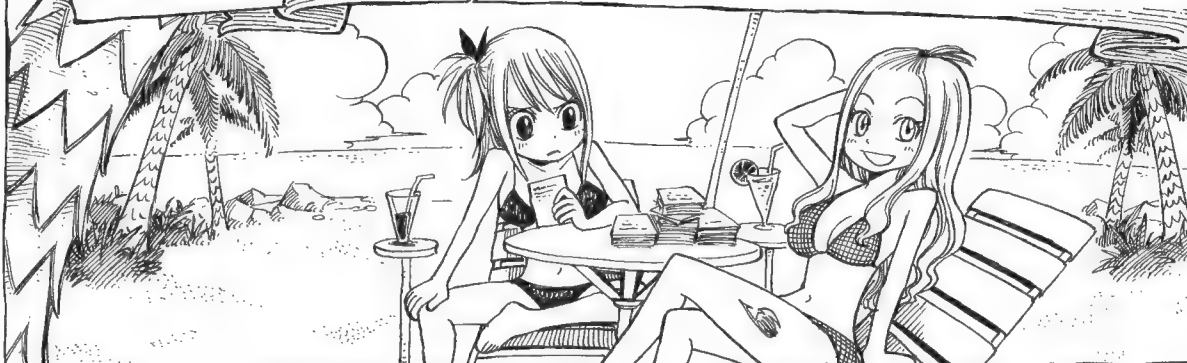
TO BE CONTINUED



... is
invoked
!!!!

Special Request

Explain the Mysteries of Fairy Tail!!



From the Beach at Hargeon



Mira: This time, we bring you this corner, not from the guild, but from the seaside! ♥



Lucy: We're at the beach! We should be having fun!! Why do we have to do this?!!

Mira: Because the artist doesn't really think his stories through, so there are a lot of postcards from the readers with questions.

Lucy: Then let's get this over with fast, so we can go swimming!! Come on, Mira-san!!

Mira: Okay, here's our first question.



Does every member of Fairy Tail have the symbol somewhere on their bodies?

Lucy: Normally, it's in a place you can't see.

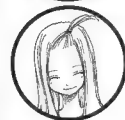
Mira: Yes, of course everybody does.

Lucy: I have mine on the back of my hand. It's on Natsu's right shoulder. It's on Erza's left arm.

Mira: As you can see ↑, it's on my left thigh.



Mira: Wow!! So that's where you have it?



Lucy: Loke has it on his **ck.



Mira: His **ck?!!!!

Mira: That's right. His **ck.

Lucy: Mira-san...Um...Uh...Is that...okay?

Mira: Of course! It's a magic stamp! Not a tattoo!!

Lucy: No, I don't mean that. I mean...is it okay to talk about things like that here...?

Mira: Huh? Why would talking about his B-A-C-K not be okay?

Lucy: His... b... ack...?

Mira: Of course. His **ck.



Lucy: Y-You know, in my opinion, there's no reason to censor that.

Continued on the right-hand page

Continued from the left-hand page

Mira: Shall we read the next question?



What's a lacrima?

Lucy: It's a magical crystal. A magic item that even normal humans can use.

Mira: That's right. I think for people living in the world these questions are coming from, you should picture a lighter in your minds. Even if you can't do magic, you can make fire with a lighter, right? In the same way, there are magical items in our world that have made their way into people's everyday lives.

Lucy: "Lacrima"...that means "tear," right?

Mira: Yep! But if lacrima are distributed too widely, then our work as wizards might dry up! I think that's why the creator gave it such a masochistic-sounding name.



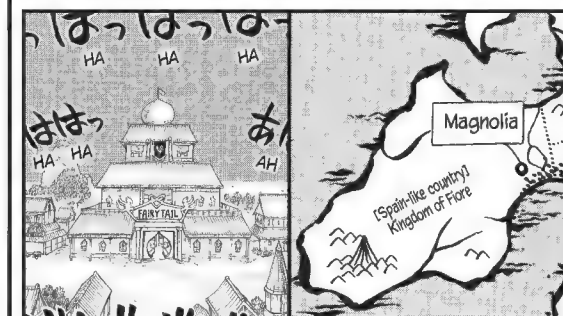
Lucy: Is...that...right...?

Mira: And now, our final question.

Lucy: All right!! Now we hit the sea!!

Mira: It's a question *about* the sea.

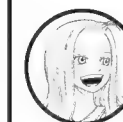
Lucy: Huh?



In some scenes, the Fairy Tail guild is shown right in front of a huge sea, but on the map, the guild seems to be pretty far inland...?

Mira:

Lucy:



Mira: Why don't we go swimming, Lucy?

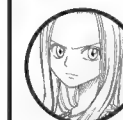
Lucy: Sure! ♥ But what is the meaning of this?!

Mira: You've got to give the reader credit. He's pretty sharp.

Lucy: I'm sure the author is putting on a face that says, "Oops!" right now.

Mira: Actually, that's a lake.

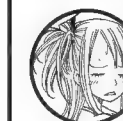
Lucy: Don't you think it might be a little too big for a lake?



Lucy: Let's just say it's a lake and let it go at that, okay?

Lucy: I-I...guess...it's okay...

Mira: Fine! Now, let's go swimming.



Mira: With a lake that close, I don't have any idea why we came all the way to the seaside to swim, though.

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The *Fairy Tail* Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock!! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster!! Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

Any letters and postcards you send with your personal information, such as your name, address, postal code, and other information, will be handed over, as is, to the author. When you send mail, please keep that in mind.



Ibaragi Prefecture, Namikaze



Saitama Prefecture, Ajisai

▼ A little devil Lucy. Hm... You already knew that I was a sucker for sexy illustrations, didn't you?

▼ There are a ton of Happy's in the background all making great faces!!



Kyoto, Sachiko



Gunma Prefecture, Ishijima Tomoka



▼ This artist did the logo as fire and ice!! I never thought of that!

▼ Goth Erza, and so well done!! I'm really bad at drawing clothes like that!! (Just look at Sherry!!)

Rejection Corner

Well... Sure, why wouldn't it be? Whatever that means.
Kyoto, Hirorin Sumiyabazaru



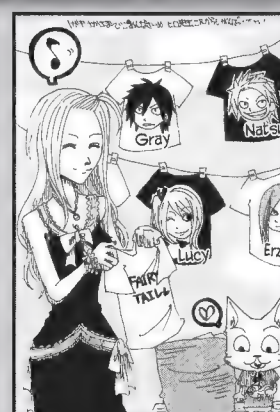
Aichi Prefecture, Nakane Chisato



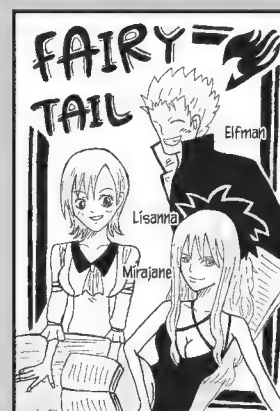
Aichi Prefecture, Happy Love2

▼ Hey, I like this kind of picture, too! I really like the slender Erza!

▼ These are what people call "nekomimi" (cat's ears). I think zōnimi (elephant ears) are going to be the next big thing!



Shizuoka Prefecture, Chawarmushi

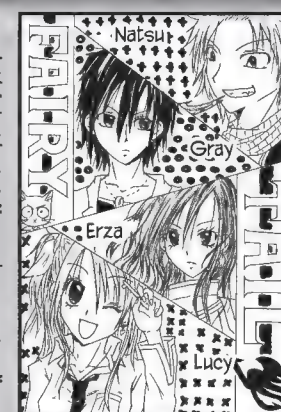


Tokushima Prefecture, Black



Kōchi Prefecture, Karyū

▼ I think that Mira-chan actually does everybody's laundry, too!

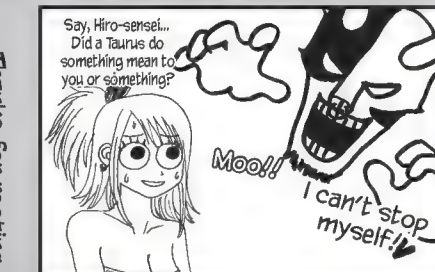


Akita Prefecture, Mikan-bako



Niigata Prefecture, Neko-Punch

▼ Thanks for rooting for the simple love story! Now, what will happen between them?



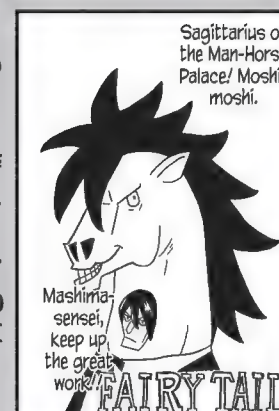
Hokkaido Prefecture, Oishiza (Taurus) no-i

▼ I especially like Erza and the odd way that she shines.

▼ So you like bunnies? I have to say that is... pretty normal.



Kagawa Prefecture, Tōjūro



Saitama Prefecture, Ishii Jun

▼ Whoa! He's cool!! It looks like Gray's popularity isn't slipping in the slightest! (How does a guy that shy and retiring do it?)

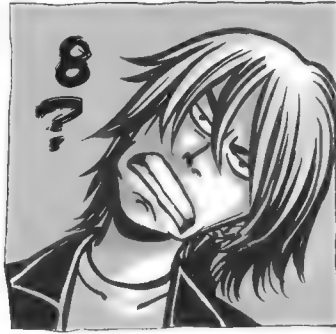
▼ Here's our "rare-character" fan art for this time. I never expected it to be this character!!

▼ Actually, I'm a Taurus myself! So I draw him with the utmost loving attention!!

AFTERWORD

Once I set on the idea of doing a dragon slayer, I knew that other dragon slayers would show up. And after a long wait, the one who showed up was Gajeel-kun (at work, we all call him Gajeel-kun (♠♠)). As Natsu's rival, he was extremely scary right from the start. Actually, there was a fight scene planned between Gajeel-kun on one side and Loke (guy with glasses) and Reedus (big guy) on the other, but with the way the episode shaped up, it had to be cut. Still, instead we got a pretty hot fight between him and Natsu, so we'll call it a good thing. Right at the very beginning, some characters called the dragon-slaying magic "Dragon Slayer," but in point of fact, dragon slayers are the people who use dragon-slaying magic. Sorry for all the confusion. This wasn't a mistake. It's just such an old form of magic that the characters don't understand the term anymore. As time went on, people had trouble differentiating between the magic and the users of that magic. But I didn't get that across to the readers very well, huh?(♠)

By the way, there are even more dragon slayers in this world. They may appear over the course of the story, but then again, they may not. The dragon Igneel passed on the techniques for slaying dragons and then disappeared. Hmm...A weird story. But I have my reasons for it, and those reasons may become key information later on. But then again, they may not. Hmm...I sort of forgot what I was trying to say, so I'm just going to end this here.



It happened so fast! My original goal of ten volumes is already in sight. Before I started, I thought that my previous work was so long (thirty-five volumes) that this time, I'd limit it to only about ten volumes. But it turned out to be much more fun drawing *FT* than I originally thought it would be. It looks like I can make this story a lot longer than planned! So root for me as I continue on...at least to volume 11!!

—Hiro Mashima

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

General Notes: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madô* is the way of magic, and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

Fair-Weather Charm, page 3

The Japanese have a popular charm that is supposed to avert rain: the *teru-teru bôzu*, where *teru* means "to shine" as in sunshine, and *bôzu* means a Buddhist priest or monk. To make one, a white tissue, napkin, or cloth is wrapped around a ball and tied off at the "neck" making a head with the rest of the cloth or paper trailing off as robes. Usually a smiley face is drawn on it (see page 15 for a slightly clumsy example). It is called a "*bôzu*" because it has a round, bald head much like Buddhist monks or priests do. Once the charm is made, it is usually hung under the roof's rafters as a charm to stop the rain. If it is hung upside down, it is supposed to encourage the rain to fall.



Rain Woman, page 15

Rain Women (*Ame onna* in Japanese) are a recurrent theme in Japanese folklore, and later, much used in manga and anime. In ancient Japan's agrarian culture, the rain women were called upon to help rain fall on the crops, and some worshipped *Ame onna* as deities. In more recent depictions they tend to be tragic figures who bring nonstop rain wherever they go, shunned and ostracized for something they cannot control.

***Nattô*, page 63**

There are foods in nearly every culture that are generally loved by those within the culture and abhorred by almost anyone coming to the culture from the outside. Hawaii has *poi*, the Inuit have *muqtuq* blubber, and the Japanese have *nattô*. *Nattô* is a strong-smelling fermented soybean dish in which beans are connected by a viscous, stringy, slimy fluid. The dish is very nutritious, containing *nattokinase*, a fibrinolytic enzyme that is said to prevent clotting in the arteries. However, despite the benefits, most non-Japanese can't palate it. Of course, there are some Western lovers of *nattô*, and a large number of Japanese who do not eat it—in other words, there are always exceptions—but the rule is, Japanese love *nattô* and foreigners can't stand the stuff.



Man-Horse Palace, page 117

Sagittarius is Latin for "Archer," and that is how it is referred to in astrology, but in Greek mythology, Sagittarius is Chiron, the Centaur. Chiron was unlike the other, bestial centaurs, and instead was a wise and learned hunter and healer. In this version, Mashima-sensei makes a joke of the man-horse by presenting it in an unusual way. However, if I had translated the palace as the "Centaur Palace," Mashima's version of the man-horse wouldn't follow logically as it does with the more literal translation of "Man-Horse Palace."



Moshi-moshi, page 117

At first, I thought Sagittarius's "moshi-moshi," was a Japanese horse sound, but I could find no incidents of horses using that sound in my research. (If you know of examples, let me know!) I just have to assume that it is a cute sentence-ending sound much like Cancer's "-ebi" at the end of his sentences (see the note in volume 2). By the way, the phrase, "moshi-moshi" is generally used as the English "hello" is used when answering the phone or when tentatively trying to get someone's attention. That doesn't seem to be Sagittarius's meaning when using the phrase here, though.

Topknots, page 188

Most samurai-movie fans recognize the classic samurai hairstyle of a shaved forehead and a topknot (an oiled ponytail that comes forward over the top of the head). It is called in Japanese a *chonmage*. Totomaru doesn't have the samurai style of topknot, but he does have a rather punk-style topknot.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/

Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

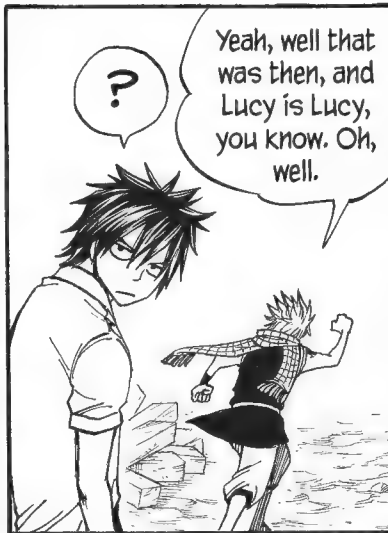
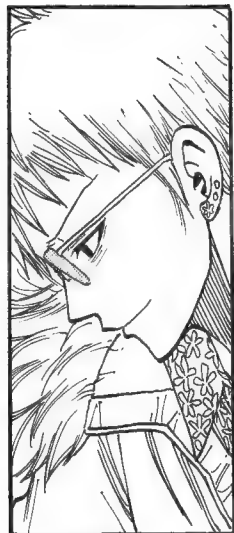
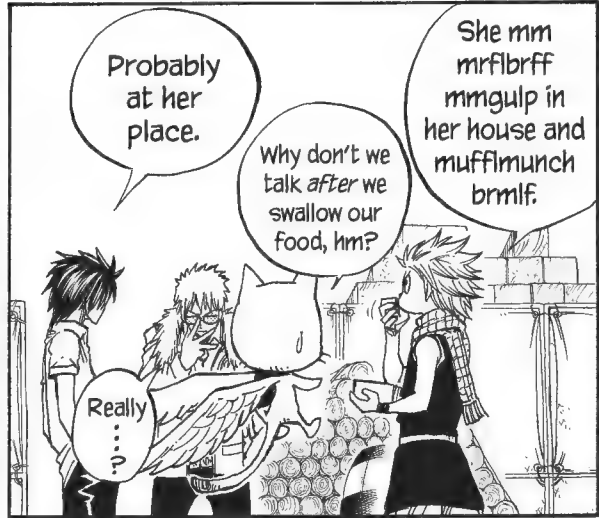
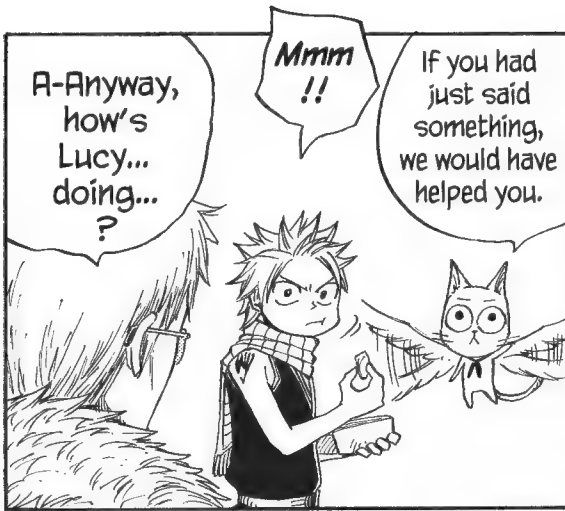
Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

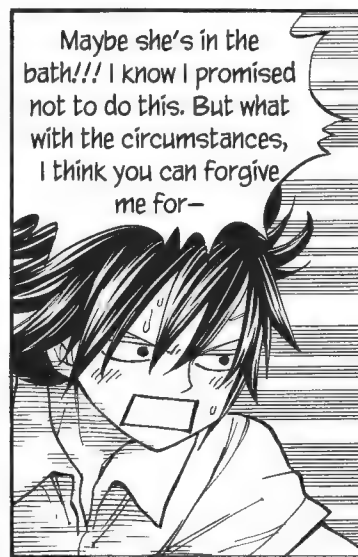
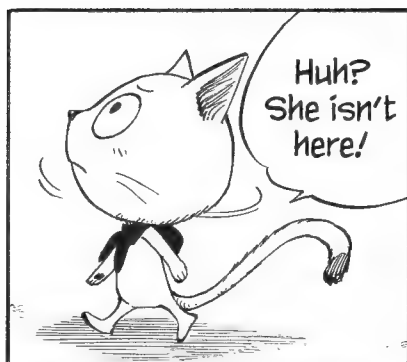
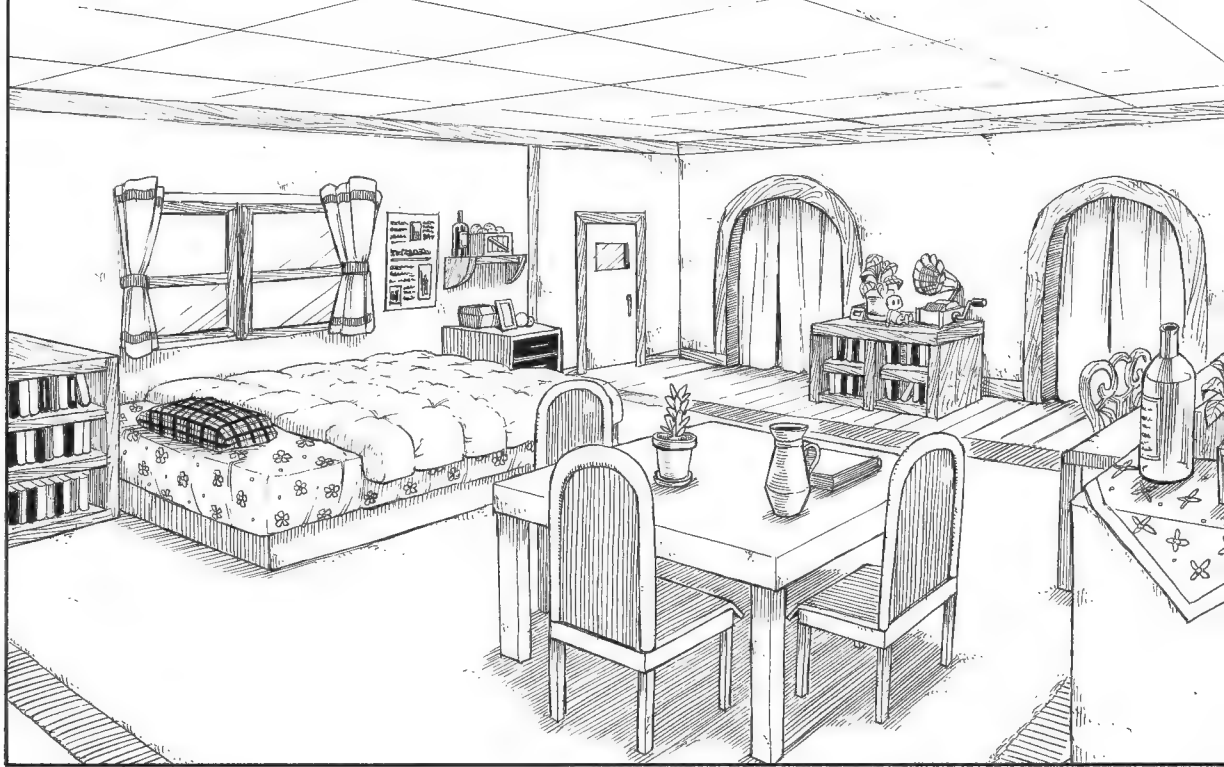
Preview of Volume 9

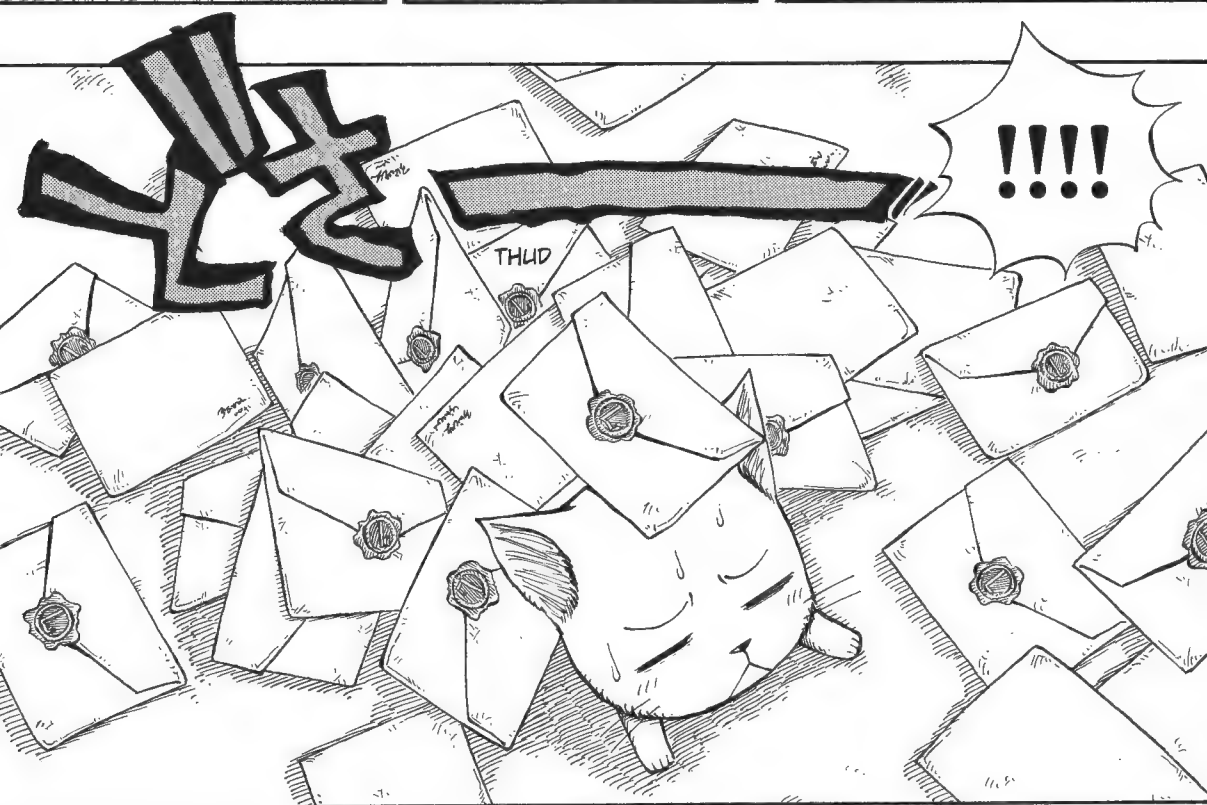
We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 9, now available from Kodansha Comics. See our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!

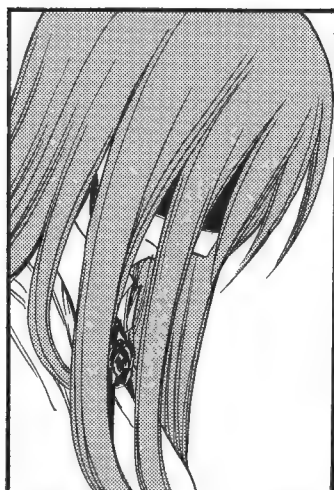
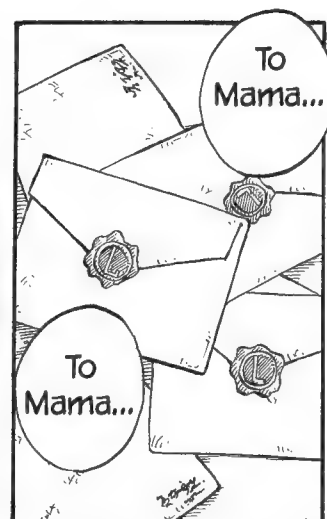


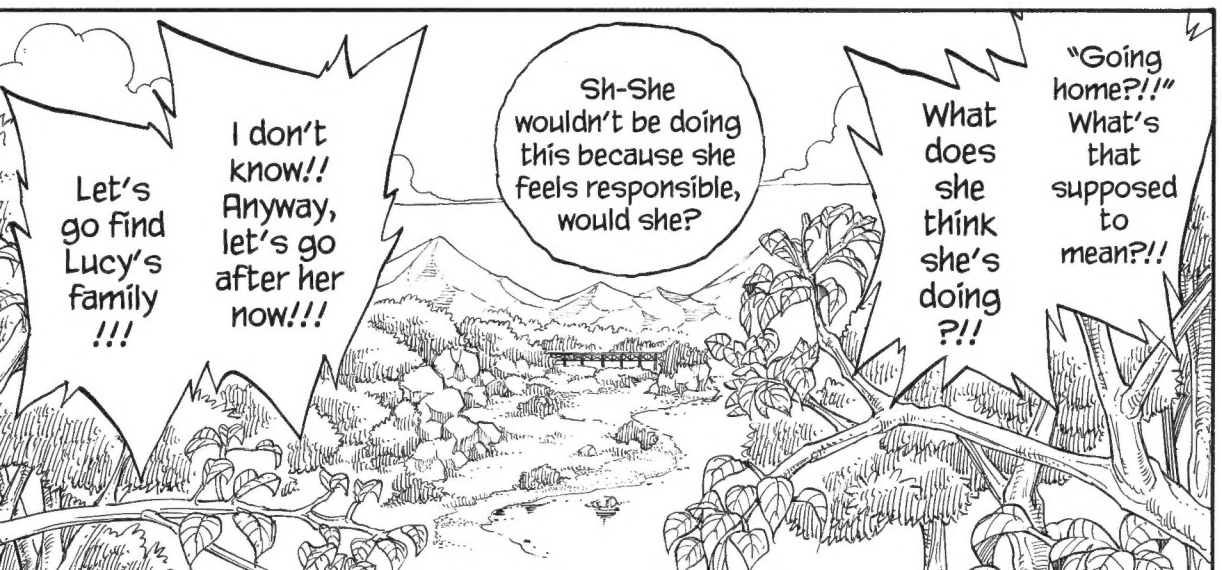
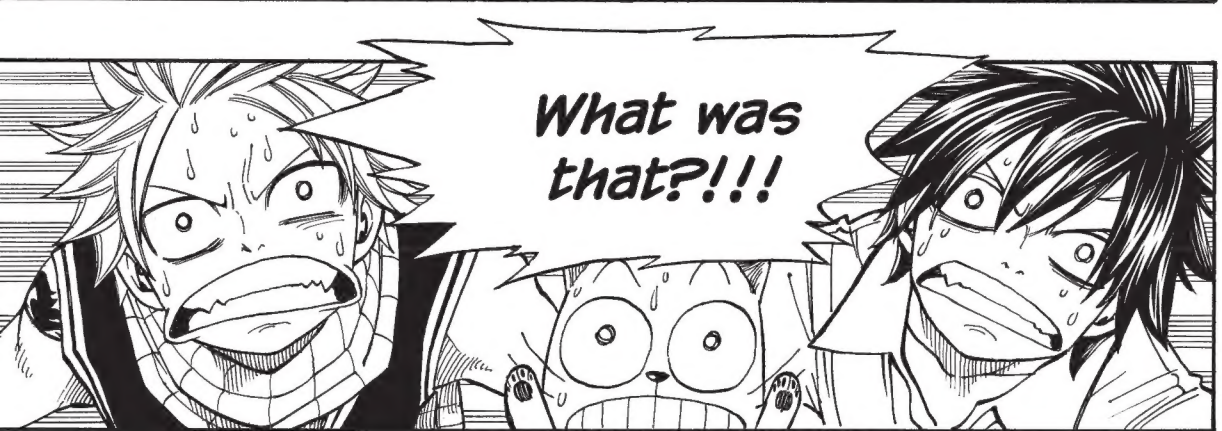
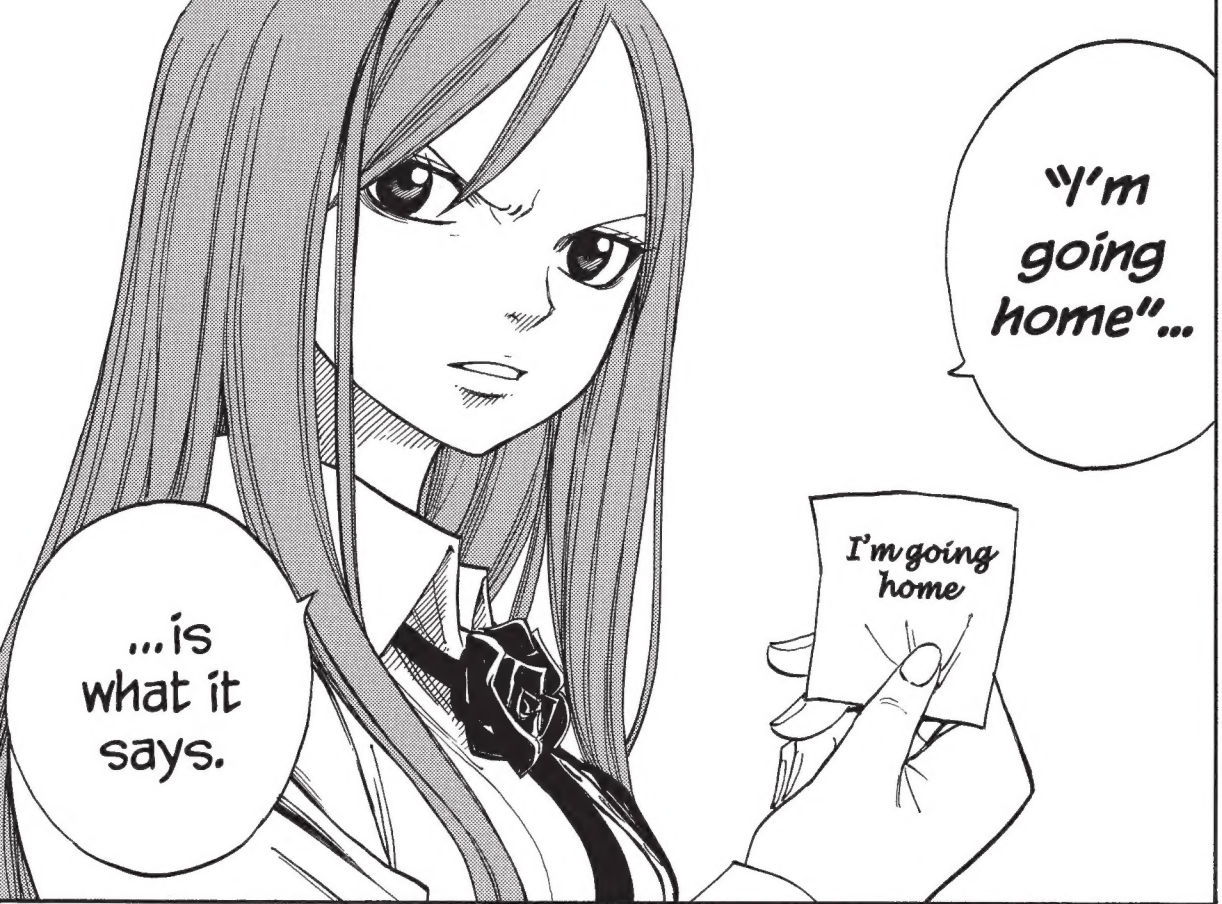


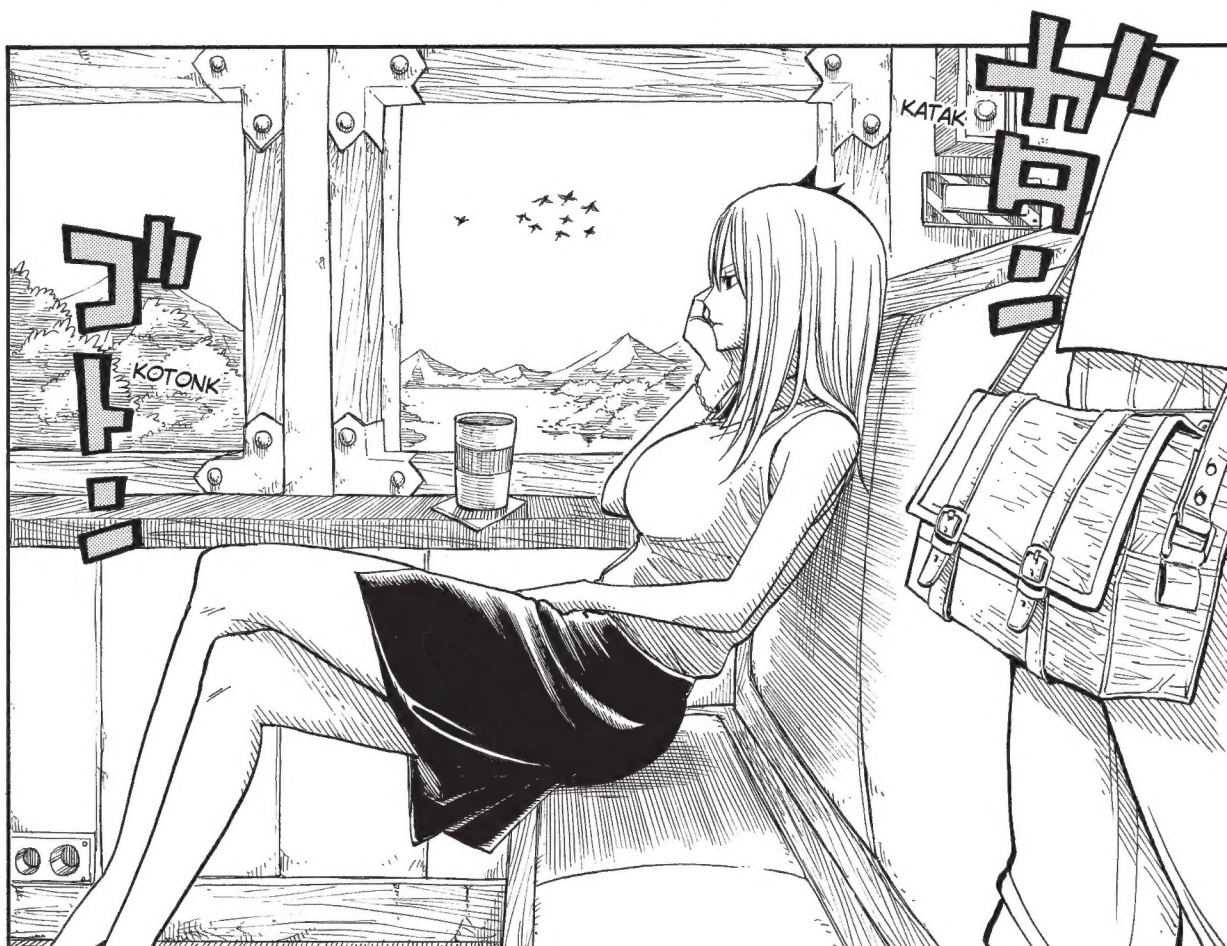
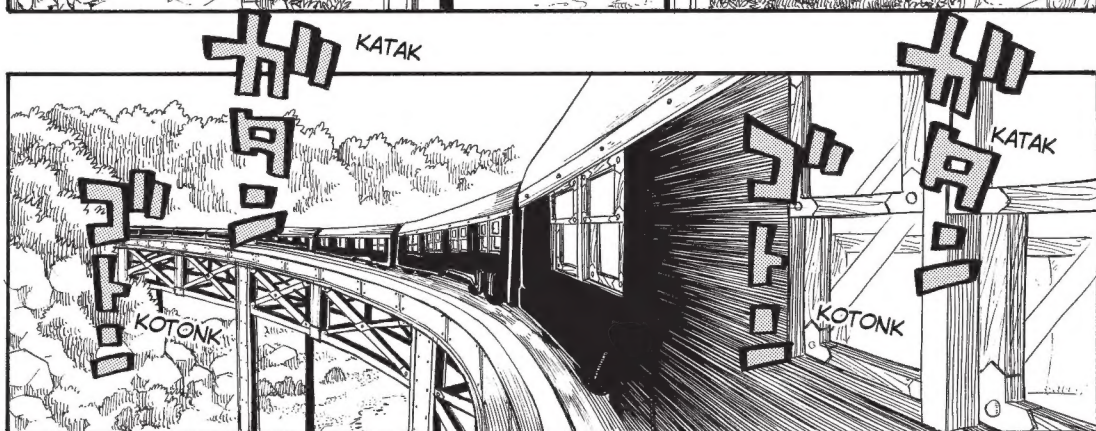
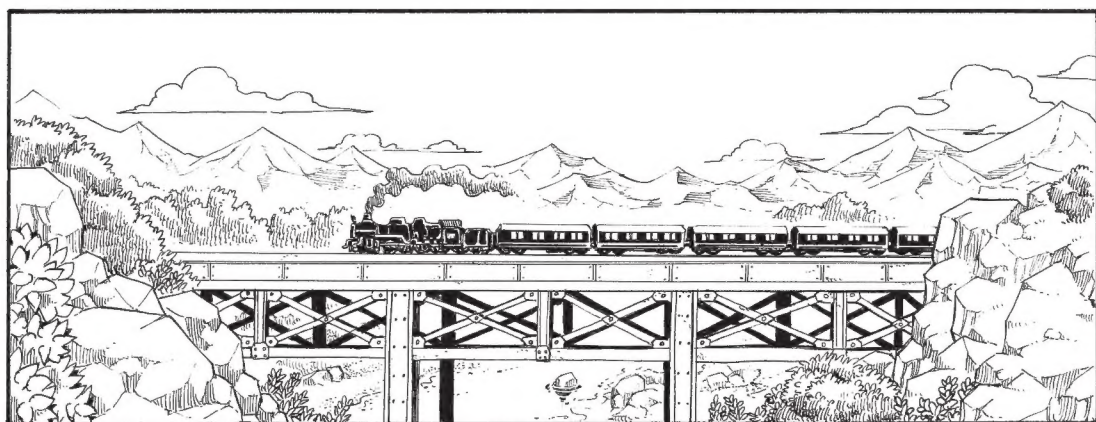












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